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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL (Small Entity)

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Docket No. ISPH-0519

Total Pages in this Submission

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Box Patent Application Washington, D.C. 20231

Washington, D.C. 20231									
Transmitted herewith for filing under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) and 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) is a new utility patent application for an									
nvention entitled:									
ANTISENSE MODULATION OF PI3K P85 EXPRESSION	5983 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 10								
and invented by:	D								
Monia et al.	JC56								
a CONTINUATION APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:									
☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☒ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.:	PCT/US00/40261								
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Enclosed are: Application Elements									
Application Elements									
1. Filing fee as calculated and transmitted as described below									
2. Specification having pages and including the following:									
a. 🛛 Descriptive Title of the Invention									
b. Cross References to Related Applications (if applicable)									
c. Statement Regarding Federally-sponsored Research/Development (if applicable)									
d. Reference to Microfiche Appendix (if applicable)									
e. 🛛 Background of the Invention									
f. 🛭 Brief Summary of the Invention									
g. Brief Description of the Drawings (if drawings filed)									
h. 🛛 Detailed Description	☑ Detailed Description								
i. 🛛 Claim(s) as Classified Below									
j. 🛛 Abstract of the Disclosure									

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	3.		Drawing(s) (when necessary as prescribed by 35 USC 113)					
		a.		Formal b. Informal Number of Sheets				
	4.	×	Oath or Declaration					
		a.		Newly executed (original or copy)				
		b.		☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) (for continuation/divisional application only)				
		c.	\boxtimes	☑ With Power of Attorney ☐ Without Power of Attorney				
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				Accompanying Application Parts				
	8. Assignment Papers (cover sheet & documents)							
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	10.		☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)					
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Application Elements (Continued)

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL (Small Entity)

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Accompanying Application Parts (Continued)								
15.		Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed)						
16.		Small Entity Statement(s) - Specify Number of Statements Submitted:						
17.		Additional Enclosures (please identify below): Request That Application Not Be Published Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)						
18.		Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2), Applicant hereby requests that this patent application not be published pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(1). Applicant hereby certifies that the invention disclosed in this application has not and will not be the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication of applications 18 months after filing of the application.						
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CLAIMS AS FILED							
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Total Claims	63	- 20 =	43	× \$9.00	\$387.00		
Indep. Claims	1	- 3 =	0	x \$40.00	\$0.00		
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Dated: November 20, 2000



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Jane Massey Licata Reg. No. 32,257 Licata & Tyrrell P.C. 66 E. Main Street Marlton, NJ 08053 Tel: 856-810-1515 Fax: 856-810-1454

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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the "BOX SEQUENCE", Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

- 1) Patent Application Transmittal Letter (2 copies);
- 2) Application consisting of 107 pages of Specification, including seven (7) pages of Claims, and one (1) page of Abstract;
- 3) Return Post Card;
- 4) Check in the amount of \$742.00;
- 5) Unexecuted Declaration and Power of Attorney;
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- 7) Sequence listing; and
- 8) Diskette containing computer readable copy of Sequence Listing.

JANE MASSEY LICATA

ISPH-0519 PATENT

ANTISENSE MODULATION OF PI3K P85 EXPRESSION

This application is a continuation-in-part of PCT/US00/40261 filed June 21, 2000 which claims priority to US Application Serial No. 09/344,521 filed June 25, 1999, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,100,090.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides compositions and methods for modulating the expression of PI3K p85. In particular, this invention relates to antisense compounds, particularly oligonucleotides, specifically hybridizable with nucleic acids encoding human PI3K p85. Such oligonucleotides have been shown to modulate the expression of PI3K p85.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Many growth factors and hormones such as nerve growth factor (NGF), platelet derived growth factor (PDGF), epidermal growth factor (EGF) and insulin mediate their signals through interactions with cell surface tyrosine kinase receptors. The transduction of extracellular signals across the membrane, initiated by ligand binding, leads to the propagation of multiple signaling events which ultimately control target biochemical pathways within the cell.

The phosphatidylinositol 3-kinases (PI3Ks) represent a ubiquitous family of heterodimeric lipid kinases that are found in association with the cytoplasmic domain of hormone

and growth factor receptors and oncogene products. PI3Ks act as downstream effectors of these receptors, are recruited upon receptor stimulation and mediate the activation of second messenger signaling pathways through the production of phosphorylated derivatives of inositol (Fry, Biochim. Biophys. Acta., 1994, 1226, 237-268).

PI3Ks have been implicated in many cellular activities including growth factor mediated cell transformation, mitogenesis, protein trafficking, cell survival and proliferation, DNA synthesis, apoptosis, neurite outgrowth and insulin-stimulated glucose transport (reviewed in Fry, Biochim. Biophys. Acta., 1994, 1226, 237-268).

The PI3 kinase enzyme heterodimers consist of a 110 kD (p110) catalytic subunit associated with an 85 kD (p85)

15 regulatory subunit and it is through the SH2 domains of the p85 subunit that the enzyme associates with the membrane-bound receptors (Escobedo et al., Cell, 1991, 65, 75-82; Skolnik et al., Cell, 1991, 65, 83-90).

PI3K p85 (also known as GRB1 and PIK3R1) was initially isolated from bovine brain and shown to exist in two forms, α and β, encoded by two different genes. In these studies, both p85 isoforms were shown to bind to and act as substrates for tyrosine-phosphorylated receptor kinases and the polyoma virus middle T antigen complex (Otsu et al., 25 Cell, 1991, 65, 91-104). The p85α subunit has been shown to interact with other proteins including tyrosine kinase receptors such as the erythropoietin receptor, the PDGR-β receptor and Tie2, an endothelium-specific receptor involved in vascular development and tumor angiogenesis (Escobedo et al., Cell, 1991, 65, 75-82; He et al., Blood, 1993, 82, 3530-3538; Kontos et al., Mol. Cell. Biol., 1998,

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18, 4131-4140). It also interacts with focal adhesion kinase (FAK), a cytoplasmic tyrosine kinase involved in integrin signaling and is thought to be a substrate and effector of FAK. Furthermore, the p85 α subunit also 5 interacts with profilin, an actin binding protein that facilitates actin polymerization (Bhargavi et al., Biochem. Mol. Biol. Int., 1998, 46, 241-248; Chen and Guan, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A., 1994, 91, 10148-10152), and the p85/profilin complex inhibits actin polymerization.

The murine homolog of PI3K p85 α gene has been isolated and characterized (Fruman, et al., Genomics, 1996, 37, 113-21). This gene was shown to produce alternative splice variants of 50, 55 and 85 kD each with unique expression patterns, the $p50\alpha$ being the most abundant variant found in 15 liver. In addition, the novel splice variant, $p55\alpha$, has also been reported in rats [Shin, et al., Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun., 1998, 246, 313-319; Inukai, et al., J. Biol. Chem., 1996, 271, 5317-20) and in humans (Antonetti, et al., Moll. Cell. Biol., 1996, 16, 2195-203).

Characterization of this variant revealed its 20 expression to be highest in brain and muscle. variant, along with the full length $p85\alpha$ variant, has been shown to interact with insulin receptor substrates and are thus likely to be involved in insulin and glucose mediated 25 signal transduction.

Recently, a truncated form of the PI3K $p85\alpha$ subunit was isolated (Jimenez et al., Embo J., 1998, 17, 743-753). This form includes the first 571 amino acids of the wild type (encoded by nucleotides 43-1755 of Genbank Acc. No. 30 M61906) linked to a region that is conserved in the eph

tyrosine kinase receptor family. This truncation was shown to induce the constitutive activation of PI3 kinase and contribute to cellular transformation of mammalian fibroblasts.

Terauchi et al. have generated mice with a targeted disruption of the gene encoding PI3K p85α (Terauchi, et al., Nat. Genet., 1999, 21, 230-5). These mice showed increased insulin sensitivity and hypoglycemia due to increased glucose transport in skeletal muscle and adipocytes. Interestingly, the activity of PI3K associated with insulin receptor substrates (IRSs) was found to be mediated by the full-length p85α in wild-type mice but by an alternative splice variant, p50α, in the knockout mice.

Recently, mice with disruptions in all three splice
variants have been generated (Fruman, et al., Science,
1999, 283, 393-397). Most of these mice die within days
after birth. Heterozygous mice, however, were studied and
found to have impaired B-cell development and proliferation
indicating that PI3K p85α and its variants may play a role
in signal transduction pathways of the immune system.

Currently, there are no known therapeutic agents which effectively inhibit the synthesis of PI3 kinase and the major approach to studying PI3 kinase function has been the use of chemical inhibitors, one phosphorothioate antisense oligonucleotide targeted to the first 24 nucleotides of the coding sequence of the p85α variant (Skorski, et al., Blood, 1995, 86, 726-36; Zauli, et al., Blood, 1997, 89, 883-95) and knockout mice.

Several chemically distinct inhibitors for PI3 kinases are reported in the literature. These include wortmannin, a fungal metabolite (Ui et al., Trends Biochem. Sci., 1995,

20, 303-307); demethoxyviridin, an antifungal agent
(Woscholski et al., FEBS Lett., 1994, 342, 109-114) and
quercetin and LY294002, two related chromones (Vlahos et
al., J. Biol. Chem., 1994, 269, 5241-5248). However, these
inhibitors primarily target the p110 subunit and are
untested as therapeutic protocols. Consequently, there
remains a long felt need for additional agents capable of
effectively inhibiting PI3K p85α function.

Alternatively, antisense technology is emerging as an effective means for reducing the expression of specific gene products and may therefore prove to be uniquely useful in a number of therapeutic, diagnostic, and research applications for the modulation of PI3K p85 expression.

The present invention provides compositions and methods for modulating PI3K p85 α expression, including modulation of the truncated form of PI3K p85 α and the splice variants of PI3K p85 α , p50 α and p55 α .

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to antisense

compounds, particularly oligonucleotides, which are
targeted to a nucleic acid encoding PI3K p85, and which
modulate the expression of PI3K p85. Pharmaceutical and
other compositions comprising the antisense compounds of
the invention are also provided. Further provided are

methods of modulating the expression of PI3K p85 in cells
or tissues comprising contacting said cells or tissues with
one or more of the antisense compounds or compositions of
the invention. Further provided are methods of treating an
animal, particularly a human, suspected of having or being
prone to a disease or condition associated with expression

of PI3K p85 by administering a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of one or more of the antisense compounds or compositions of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention employs oligomeric antisense compounds, particularly oligonucleotides, for use in modulating the function of nucleic acid molecules encoding PI3K p85, ultimately modulating the amount of PI3K p85 produced. This is accomplished by providing antisense 10 compounds which specifically hybridize with one or more nucleic acids encoding PI3K p85. As used herein, the terms "target nucleic acid" and "nucleic acid encoding PI3K p85" encompass DNA encoding PI3K p85, RNA (including pre-mRNA and mRNA) transcribed from such DNA, and also cDNA derived 15 from such RNA. The specific hybridization of an oligomeric compound with its target nucleic acid interferes with the normal function of the nucleic acid. This modulation of function of a target nucleic acid by compounds which specifically hybridize to it is generally referred to as The functions of DNA to be interfered with 20 "antisense". include replication and transcription. The functions of RNA to be interfered with include all vital functions such as, for example, translocation of the RNA to the site of protein translation, translation of protein from the RNA, 25 splicing of the RNA to yield one or more mRNA species, and catalytic activity which may be engaged in or facilitated by the RNA. The overall effect of such interference with target nucleic acid function is modulation of the expression of PI3K p85. In the context of the present 30 invention, "modulation" means either an increase

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(stimulation) or a decrease (inhibition) in the expression of a gene. In the context of the present invention, inhibition is the preferred form of modulation of gene expression and mRNA is a preferred target.

It is preferred to target specific nucleic acids for antisense. "Targeting" an antisense compound to a particular nucleic acid, in the context of this invention, is a multistep process. The process usually begins with the identification of a nucleic acid sequence whose 10 function is to be modulated. This may be, for example, a cellular gene (or mRNA transcribed from the gene) whose expression is associated with a particular disorder or disease state, or a nucleic acid molecule from an infectious agent. In the present invention, the target is 15 a nucleic acid molecule encoding PI3K p85. The targeting process also includes determination of a site or sites within this gene for the antisense interaction to occur such that the desired effect, e.g., detection or modulation of expression of the protein, will result. Within the 20 context of the present invention, a preferred intragenic site is the region encompassing the translation initiation or termination codon of the open reading frame (ORF) of the Since, as is known in the art, the translation initiation codon is typically 5'-AUG (in transcribed mRNA 25 molecules; 5'-ATG in the corresponding DNA molecule), the translation initiation codon is also referred to as the "AUG codon," the "start codon" or the "AUG start codon". A minority of genes have a translation initiation codon having the RNA sequence 5'-GUG, 5'-UUG or 5'-CUG, and 30 5'-AUA, 5'-ACG and 5'-CUG have been shown to function in vivo. Thus, the terms "translation initiation codon" and

"start codon" can encompass many codon sequences, even though the initiator amino acid in each instance is typically methionine (in eukaryotes) or formylmethionine (in prokaryotes). It is also known in the art that eukaryotic and prokaryotic genes may have two or more

- eukaryotic and prokaryotic genes may have two or more alternative start codons, any one of which may be preferentially utilized for translation initiation in a particular cell type or tissue, or under a particular set of conditions. In the context of the invention, "start
- codon" and "translation initiation codon" refer to the codon or codons that are used in vivo to initiate translation of an mRNA molecule transcribed from a gene encoding PI3K p85, regardless of the sequence(s) of such codons.
- It is also known in the art that a translation termination codon (or "stop codon") of a gene may have one of three sequences, i.e., 5'-UAA, 5'-UAG and 5'-UGA (the corresponding DNA sequences are 5'-TAA, 5'-TAG and 5'-TGA, respectively). The terms "start codon region" and "translation initiation codon region" refer to a portion of
 - such an mRNA or gene that encompasses from about 25 to about 50 contiguous nucleotides in either direction (i.e., 5' or 3') from a translation initiation codon. Similarly, the terms "stop codon region" and "translation termination
- codon region" refer to a portion of such an mRNA or gene that encompasses from about 25 to about 50 contiguous nucleotides in either direction (i.e., 5' or 3') from a translation termination codon.

The open reading frame (ORF) or "coding region," which
30 is known in the art to refer to the region between the
translation initiation codon and the translation

termination codon, is also a region which may be targeted effectively. Other target regions include the 5' untranslated region (5'UTR), known in the art to refer to the portion of an mRNA in the 5' direction from the

- 5 translation initiation codon, and thus including nucleotides between the 5' cap site and the translation initiation codon of an mRNA or corresponding nucleotides on the gene, and the 3' untranslated region (3'UTR), known in the art to refer to the portion of an mRNA in the 3'
- direction from the translation termination codon, and thus including nucleotides between the translation termination codon and 3' end of an mRNA or corresponding nucleotides on the gene. The 5' cap of an mRNA comprises an N7-methylated guanosine residue joined to the 5'-most residue of the mRNA via a 5'-5' triphosphate linkage. The 5' cap region of an mRNA is considered to include the 5' cap structure itself as well as the first 50 nucleotides adjacent to the cap.

Although some eukaryotic mRNA transcripts are directly translated, many contain one or more regions, known as "introns," which are excised from a transcript before it is translated. The remaining (and therefore translated) regions are known as "exons" and are spliced together to form a continuous mRNA sequence. mRNA splice sites, i.e.,

The 5' cap region may also be a preferred target region.

- regions, and are particularly useful in situations where aberrant splicing is implicated in disease, or where an overproduction of a particular mRNA splice product is implicated in disease. Aberrant fusion junctions due to
- rearrangements or deletions are also preferred targets. It has also been found that introns can also be effective, and

therefore preferred, target regions for antisense compounds targeted, for example, to DNA or pre-mRNA.

Once one or more target sites have been identified, oligonucleotides are chosen which are sufficiently complementary to the target, i.e., hybridize sufficiently well and with sufficient specificity, to give the desired effect.

In the context of this invention, "hybridization" means hydrogen bonding, which may be Watson-Crick, 10 Hoogsteen or reversed Hoogsteen hydrogen bonding, between complementary nucleoside or nucleotide bases. For example, adenine and thymine are complementary nucleobases which pair through the formation of hydrogen bonds. "Complementary," as used herein, refers to the capacity for 15 precise pairing between two nucleotides. For example, if a nucleotide at a certain position of an oligonucleotide is capable of hydrogen bonding with a nucleotide at the same position of a DNA or RNA molecule, then the oligonucleotide and the DNA or RNA are considered to be complementary to 20 each other at that position. The oligonucleotide and the DNA or RNA are complementary to each other when a sufficient number of corresponding positions in each molecule are occupied by nucleotides which can hydrogen bond with each other. Thus, "specifically hybridizable" 25 and "complementary" are terms which are used to indicate a sufficient degree of complementarity or precise pairing such that stable and specific binding occurs between the oligonucleotide and the DNA or RNA target. It is understood in the art that the sequence of an antisense 30 compound need not be 100% complementary to that of its target nucleic acid to be specifically hybridizable. An

antisense compound is specifically hybridizable when binding of the compound to the target DNA or RNA molecule interferes with the normal function of the target DNA or RNA to cause a loss of utility, and there is a sufficient degree of complementarity to avoid non-specific binding of the antisense compound to non-target sequences under conditions in which specific binding is desired, i.e., under physiological conditions in the case of in vivo assays or therapeutic treatment, and in the case of in vitro assays, under conditions in which the assays are performed.

Antisense compounds are commonly used as research reagents and diagnostics. For example, antisense oligonucleotides, which are able to inhibit gene expression with exquisite specificity, are often used by those of ordinary skill to elucidate the function of particular genes. Antisense compounds are also used, for example, to distinguish between functions of various members of a biological pathway. Antisense modulation has, therefore, been harnessed for research use.

The specificity and sensitivity of antisense is also harnessed by those of skill in the art for therapeutic uses. Antisense oligonucleotides have been employed as therapeutic moieties in the treatment of disease states in animals and man. Antisense oligonucleotides have been safely and effectively administered to humans and numerous clinical trials are presently underway. It is thus established that oligonucleotides can be useful therapeutic modalities that can be configured to be useful in treatment regimes for treatment of cells, tissues and animals, especially humans.

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In the context of this invention, the term

"oligonucleotide" refers to an oligomer or polymer of
ribonucleic acid (RNA) or deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) or
mimetics thereof. This term includes oligonucleotides

composed of naturally-occurring nucleobases, sugars and
covalent internucleoside (backbone) linkages as well as
oligonucleotides having non-naturally-occurring portions
which function similarly. Such modified or substituted
oligonucleotides are often preferred over native forms
because of desirable properties such as, for example,
enhanced cellular uptake, enhanced affinity for nucleic
acid target and increased stability in the presence of
nucleases.

While antisense oligonucleotides are a preferred form 15 of antisense compound, the present invention comprehends other oligomeric antisense compounds, including but not limited to oligonucleotide mimetics such as are described below. The antisense compounds in accordance with this invention preferably comprise from about 8 to about 30 20 nucleobases (i.e. from about 8 to about 30 linked nucleosides). Particularly preferred antisense compounds are antisense oligonucleotides, even more preferably those comprising from about 12 to about 25 nucleobases. As is known in the art, a nucleoside is a base-sugar combination. 25 The base portion of the nucleoside is normally a heterocyclic base. The two most common classes of such heterocyclic bases are the purines and the pyrimidines. Nucleotides are nucleosides that further include a phosphate group covalently linked to the sugar portion of 30 the nucleoside. For those nucleosides that include a pentofuranosyl sugar, the phosphate group can be linked to

either the 2', 3' or 5' hydroxyl moiety of the sugar. In forming oligonucleotides, the phosphate groups covalently link adjacent nucleosides to one another to form a linear polymeric compound. In turn the respective ends of this linear polymeric structure can be further joined to form a circular structure, however, open linear structures are generally preferred. Within the oligonucleotide structure, the phosphate groups are commonly referred to as forming the internucleoside backbone of the oligonucleotide. The normal linkage or backbone of RNA and DNA is a 3' to 5' phosphodiester linkage.

Specific examples of preferred antisense compounds useful in this invention include oligonucleotides containing modified backbones or non-natural

15 internucleoside linkages. As defined in this specification, oligonucleotides having modified backbones include those that retain a phosphorus atom in the backbone and those that do not have a phosphorus atom in the backbone. For the purposes of this specification, and as

20 sometimes referenced in the art, modified oligonucleotides that do not have a phosphorus atom in their internucleoside backbone can also be considered to be oligonucleosides.

Preferred modified oligonucleotide backbones include, for example, phosphorothioates, chiral phosphorothioates, phosphorodithioates, phosphotriesters, aminoalkyl-phosphotriesters, methyl and other alkyl phosphonates including 3'-alkylene phosphonates and chiral phosphonates, phosphinates, phosphoramidates including 3'-amino phosphoramidate and aminoalkylphosphoramidates, thionoalkylphosphorates, thionoalkylphosphotriesters, and boranophosphates having

normal 3'-5' linkages, 2'-5' linked analogs of these, and those having inverted polarity wherein the adjacent pairs of nucleoside units are linked 3'-5' to 5'-3' or 2'-5' to 5'-2'. Various salts, mixed salts and free acid forms are also included.

Representative United States patents that teach the preparation of the above phosphorus-containing linkages include, but are not limited to, U.S.: 3,687,808; 4,469,863; 4,476,301; 5,023,243; 5,177,196; 5,188,897; 5,264,423; 5,276,019; 5,278,302; 5,286,717; 5,321,131; 5,399,676; 5,405,939; 5,453,496; 5,455,233; 5,466,677; 5,476,925; 5,519,126; 5,536,821; 5,541,306; 5,550,111; 5,563,253; 5,571,799; 5,587,361; and 5,625,050, certain of which are commonly owned with this application, and each of which is herein incorporated by reference.

Preferred modified oligonucleotide backbones that do not include a phosphorus atom therein have backbones that are formed by short chain alkyl or cycloalkyl internucleoside linkages, mixed heteroatom and alkyl or 20 cycloalkyl internucleoside linkages, or one or more short chain heteroatomic or heterocyclic internucleoside These include those having morpholino linkages linkaqes. (formed in part from the sugar portion of a nucleoside); siloxane backbones; sulfide, sulfoxide and sulfone 25 backbones; formacetyl and thioformacetyl backbones; methylene formacetyl and thioformacetyl backbones; alkene containing backbones; sulfamate backbones; methyleneimino and methylenehydrazino backbones; sulfonate and sulfonamide backbones; amide backbones; and others having mixed N, O, S 30 and CH_2 component parts.

Representative United States patents that teach the preparation of the above oligonucleosides include, but are not limited to, U.S.: 5,034,506; 5,166,315; 5,185,444; 5,214,134; 5,216,141; 5,235,033; 5,264,562; 5,264,564; 5,405,938; 5,434,257; 5,466,677; 5,470,967; 5,489,677; 5,541,307; 5,561,225; 5,596,086; 5,602,240; 5,610,289; 5,602,240; 5,608,046; 5,610,289; 5,618,704; 5,623,070; 5,663,312; 5,633,360; 5,677,437; and 5,677,439, certain of which are commonly owned with this application, and each of which is herein incorporated by reference.

In other preferred oligonucleotide mimetics, both the sugar and the internucleoside linkage, i.e., the backbone, of the nucleotide units are replaced with novel groups. The base units are maintained for hybridization with an 15 appropriate nucleic acid target compound. One such oligomeric compound, an oligonucleotide mimetic that has been shown to have excellent hybridization properties, is referred to as a peptide nucleic acid (PNA). compounds, the sugar-backbone of an oligonucleotide is 20 replaced with an amide containing backbone, in particular an aminoethylglycine backbone. The nucleobases are retained and are bound directly or indirectly to aza nitrogen atoms of the amide portion of the backbone. Representative United States patents that teach the 25 preparation of PNA compounds include, but are not limited to, U.S.: 5,539,082; 5,714,331; and 5,719,262, each of which is herein incorporated by reference. Further teaching of PNA compounds can be found in Nielsen et al., Science, **1991**, 254, 1497-1500.

Most preferred embodiments of the invention are oligonucleotides with phosphorothicate backbones and

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oligonucleosides with heteroatom backbones, and in particular -CH₂-NH-O-CH₂-, -CH₂-N(CH₃)-O-CH₂- [known as a methylene (methylimino) or MMI backbone], -CH₂-O-N(CH₃)-CH₂-, -CH₂-N(CH₃)-N(CH₃)-CH₂- and -O-N(CH₃)-CH₂-CH₂- [wherein the native phosphodiester backbone is represented as -O-P-O-CH₂-] of the above referenced U.S. patent 5,489,677, and the amide backbones of the above referenced U.S. patent 5,602,240. Also preferred are oligonucleotides having morpholino backbone structures of the above-referenced U.S. patent 5,034,506.

Modified oligonucleotides may also contain one or more substituted sugar moieties. Preferred oligonucleotides comprise one of the following at the 2' position: OH; F; O-, S-, or N-alkyl; O-, S-, or N-alkenyl; O-, S- or N-15 alkynyl; or O-alkyl-O-alkyl, wherein the alkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl may be substituted or unsubstituted C_{1} to C_{10} alkyl or C_2 to C_{10} alkenyl and alkynyl. Particularly preferred are $\texttt{O[(CH}_2)_n \texttt{O]}_m \texttt{CH}_3 \text{, } \texttt{O(CH}_2)_n \texttt{OCH}_3 \text{, } \texttt{O(CH}_2)_n \texttt{NH}_2 \text{, } \texttt{O(CH}_2)_n \texttt{CH}_3 \text{, } \texttt{O(CH}_2)_n \texttt{ONH}_2 \text{, }$ and $O(CH_2)_nON[(CH_2)_nCH_3)]_2$, where n and m are from 1 to about 20 10. Other preferred oligonucleotides comprise one of the following at the 2' position: C_1 to C_{10} lower alkyl, substituted lower alkyl, alkaryl, aralkyl, O-alkaryl or Oaralkyl, SH, SCH $_3$, OCN, Cl, Br, CN, CF $_3$, OCF $_3$, SOCH $_3$, SO $_2$ CH $_3$, ONO_2 , NO_2 , N_3 , NH_2 , heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkaryl, 25 aminoalkylamino, polyalkylamino, substituted silyl, an RNA cleaving group, a reporter group, an intercalator, a group for improving the pharmacokinetic properties of an oligonucleotide, or a group for improving the pharmacodynamic properties of an oligonucleotide, and other 30 substituents having similar properties. A preferred modification includes 2'-methoxyethoxy (2'-O- $\mathrm{CH_2CH_2OCH_3}$, also known as 2'-O-(2-methoxyethyl) or 2'-MOE) (Martin et al., Helv. Chim. Acta, 1995, 78, 486-504) i.e., an alkoxyalkoxy group. A further preferred modification includes 2'-dimethylaminooxyethoxy, i.e., a O(CH₂)₂ON(CH₃)₂ group, also known as 2'-DMAOE, as described in examples hereinbelow, and 2'-dimethylaminoethoxyethoxy (also known in the art as 2'-O-dimethylaminoethoxyethyl or 2'-DMAEOE), i.e., 2'-O-CH₂-O-CH₂-N(CH₂)₂, also described in examples hereinbelow.

Other preferred modifications include 2'-methoxy (2'- $_{\rm 10~O-CH_3})$, 2'-aminopropoxy (2'-OCH $_{\rm 2}CH_{\rm 2}CH_{\rm 2}NH_{\rm 2})$ and 2'-fluoro (2'-F). Similar modifications may also be made at other positions on the oligonucleotide, particularly the 3' position of the sugar on the 3' terminal nucleotide or in 2'-5' linked oligonucleotides and the 5' position of 5' 15 terminal nucleotide. Oligonucleotides may also have sugar mimetics such as cyclobutyl moieties in place of the pentofuranosyl sugar. Representative United States patents that teach the preparation of such modified sugar structures include, but are not limited to, U.S.: 20 4,981,957; 5,118,800; 5,319,080; 5,359,044; 5,393,878; 5,446,137; 5,466,786; 5,514,785; 5,519,134; 5,567,811; 5,576,427; 5,591,722; 5,597,909; 5,610,300; 5,627,053; 5,639,873; 5,646,265; 5,658,873; 5,670,633; and 5,700,920, certain of which are commonly owned with the instant

Oligonucleotides may also include nucleobase (often referred to in the art simply as "base") modifications or substitutions. As used herein, "unmodified" or "natural" nucleobases include the purine bases adenine (A) and guanine (G), and the pyrimidine bases thymine (T), cytosine

25 application, and each of which is herein incorporated by

reference in its entirety.

(C) and uracil (U). Modified nucleobases include other synthetic and natural nucleobases such as 5-methylcytosine (5-me-C), 5-hydroxymethyl cytosine, xanthine, hypoxanthine, 2-aminoadenine, 6-methyl and other alkyl derivatives of 5 adenine and guanine, 2-propyl and other alkyl derivatives of adenine and guanine, 2-thiouracil, 2-thiothymine and 2thiocytosine, 5-halouracil and cytosine, 5-propynyl uracil and cytosine, 6-azo uracil, cytosine and thymine, 5-uracil (pseudouracil), 4-thiouracil, 8-halo, 8-amino, 8-thiol, 8-10 thioalkyl, 8-hydroxyl and other 8-substituted adenines and quanines, 5-halo particularly 5-bromo, 5-trifluoromethyl and other 5-substituted uracils and cytosines, 7methylquanine and 7-methyladenine, 8-azaguanine and 8azaadenine, 7-deazaguanine and 7-deazaadenine and 3-15 deazaguanine and 3-deazaadenine. Further nucleobases include those disclosed in United States Patent No. 3,687,808, those disclosed in The Concise Encyclopedia Of Polymer Science And Engineering, pages 858-859, Kroschwitz, J.I., ed. John Wiley & Sons, 1990, those disclosed by 20 Englisch et al., Angewandte Chemie, International Edition, 1991, 30, 613, and those disclosed by Sanghvi, Y.S., Chapter 15, Antisense Research and Applications, pages 289-302, Crooke, S.T. and Lebleu, B., ed., CRC Press, 1993. Certain of these nucleobases are particularly useful for 25 increasing the binding affinity of the oligomeric compounds of the invention. These include 5-substituted pyrimidines, 6-azapyrimidines and N-2, N-6 and O-6 substituted purines, including 2-aminopropyladenine, 5-propynyluracil and 5propynylcytosine. 5-methylcytosine substitutions have been 30 shown to increase nucleic acid duplex stability by 0.6-1.2°C

(Sanghvi, Y.S., Crooke, S.T. and Lebleu, B., eds.,

reference.

Antisense Research and Applications, CRC Press, Boca Raton, 1993, pp. 276-278) and are presently preferred base substitutions, even more particularly when combined with 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar modifications.

Representative United States patents that teach the preparation of certain of the above noted modified nucleobases as well as other modified nucleobases include, but are not limited to, the above noted U.S. 3,687,808, as well as U.S.: 4,845,205; 5,130,302; 5,134,066; 5,175,273; 5,367,066; 5,432,272; 5,457,187; 5,459,255; 5,484,908; 5,502,177; 5,525,711; 5,552,540; 5,587,469; 5,594,121, 5,596,091; 5,614,617; and 5,681,941, certain of which are commonly owned with the instant application, and each of which is herein incorporated by reference, and United States patent 5,750,692, which is commonly owned with the instant application and also herein incorporated by

Another modification of the oligonucleotides of the invention involves chemically linking to the

20 oligonucleotide one or more moieties or conjugates which enhance the activity, cellular distribution or cellular uptake of the oligonucleotide. Such moieties include but are not limited to lipid moieties such as a cholesterol moiety (Letsinger et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 1989, 86, 6553-6556), cholic acid (Manoharan et al., Bioorg. Med. Chem. Let., 1994, 4, 1053-1060), a thioether, e.g., hexyl-S-tritylthiol (Manoharan et al., Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci., 1992, 660, 306-309; Manoharan et al., Bioorg. Med. Chem. Let., 1993, 3, 2765-2770), a thiocholesterol (Oberhauser et al., Nucl. Acids Res., 1992, 20, 533-538), an aliphatic

chain, e.g., dodecandiol or undecyl residues (Saison-

Behmoaras et al., EMBO J., 1991, 10, 1111-1118; Kabanov et al., FEBS Lett., 1990, 259, 327-330; Svinarchuk et al., Biochimie, 1993, 75, 49-54), a phospholipid, e.g., dihexadecyl-rac-glycerol or triethylammonium 1,2-di-O-5 hexadecyl-rac-glycero-3-H-phosphonate (Manoharan et al., Tetrahedron Lett., 1995, 36, 3651-3654; Shea et al., Nucl. Acids Res., 1990, 18, 3777-3783), a polyamine or a polyethylene glycol chain (Manoharan et al., Nucleosides & Nucleotides, 1995, 14, 969-973), or adamantane acetic acid (Manoharan et al., Tetrahedron Lett., 1995, 36, 3651-3654), a palmityl moiety (Mishra et al., Biochim. Biophys. Acta, 1995, 1264, 229-237), or an octadecylamine or hexylamino-

Representative United States patents that teach the preparation of such oligonucleotide conjugates include, but are not limited to, U.S.: 4,828,979; 4,948,882; 5,218,105; 5,525,465; 5,541,313; 5,545,730; 5,552,538; 5,578,717, 5,580,731; 5,580,731; 5,591,584; 5,109,124; 5,118,802; 5,138,045; 5,414,077; 5,486,603; 5,512,439; 5,578,718; 5,608,046; 4,587,044; 4,605,735; 4,667,025; 4,762,779; 4,789,737; 4,824,941; 4,835,263; 4,876,335; 4,904,582; 4,958,013; 5,082,830; 5,112,963; 5,214,136; 5,082,830; 5,112,963; 5,214,136; 5,082,830; 5,12,963; 5,214,136; 5,245,022; 5,254,469; 5,258,506; 5,262,536; 5,272,250; 5,292,873; 5,317,098; 5,371,241, 5,391,723; 5,416,203, 5,451,463; 5,510,475; 5,512,667; 5,514,785; 5,565,552; 5,567,810; 5,574,142; 5,585,481; 5,587,371; 5,595,726; 5,597,696; 5,599,923; 5,599,928 and

5,688,941, certain of which are commonly owned with the

carbonyl-oxycholesterol moiety (Crooke et al., J.

Pharmacol. Exp. Ther., 1996, 277, 923-937.

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instant application, and each of which is herein incorporated by reference.

It is not necessary for all positions in a given compound to be uniformly modified, and in fact more than 5 one of the aforementioned modifications may be incorporated in a single compound or even at a single nucleoside within an oligonucleotide. The present invention also includes antisense compounds which are chimeric compounds. "Chimeric" antisense compounds or "chimeras," in the 10 context of this invention, are antisense compounds, particularly oligonucleotides, which contain two or more chemically distinct regions, each made up of at least one monomer unit, i.e., a nucleotide in the case of an oligonucleotide compound. These oligonucleotides typically 15 contain at least one region wherein the oligonucleotide is modified so as to confer upon the oligonucleotide increased resistance to nuclease degradation, increased cellular uptake, and/or increased binding affinity for the target nucleic acid. An additional region of the oligonucleotide 20 may serve as a substrate for enzymes capable of cleaving RNA:DNA or RNA:RNA hybrids. By way of example, RNase H is a cellular endonuclease which cleaves the RNA strand of an RNA: DNA duplex. Activation of RNase H, therefore, results in cleavage of the RNA target, thereby greatly enhancing 25 the efficiency of oligonucleotide inhibition of gene expression. Consequently, comparable results can often be obtained with shorter oligonucleotides when chimeric oligonucleotides are used, compared to phosphorothioate deoxyoligonucleotides hybridizing to the same target 30 region. Cleavage of the RNA target can be routinely detected by gel electrophoresis and, if necessary,

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associated nucleic acid hybridization techniques known in the art.

Chimeric antisense compounds of the invention may be formed as composite structures of two or more

5 oligonucleotides, modified oligonucleotides, oligonucleosides and/or oligonucleotide mimetics as described above. Such compounds have also been referred to in the art as hybrids or gapmers. Representative United States patents that teach the preparation of such hybrid structures include, but are not limited to, U.S.: 5,013,830; 5,149,797; 5,220,007; 5,256,775; 5,366,878; 5,403,711; 5,491,133; 5,565,350; 5,623,065; 5,652,355; 5,652,356; and 5,700,922, certain of which are commonly owned with the instant application, and each of which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

The antisense compounds used in accordance with this invention may be conveniently and routinely made through the well-known technique of solid phase synthesis.

Equipment for such synthesis is sold by several vendors including, for example, Applied Biosystems (Foster City, CA). Any other means for such synthesis known in the art may additionally or alternatively be employed. It is well known to use similar techniques to prepare oligonucleotides such as the phosphorothioates and alkylated derivatives.

The antisense compounds of the invention are synthesized in vitro and do not include antisense compositions of biological origin, or genetic vector constructs designed to direct the in vivo synthesis of antisense molecules.

The compounds of the invention may also be admixed, encapsulated, conjugated or otherwise associated with other

molecules, molecule structures or mixtures of compounds, as
for example, liposomes, receptor targeted molecules, oral,
rectal, topical or other formulations, for assisting in
uptake, distribution and/or absorption. Representative

5 United States patents that teach the preparation of such
uptake, distribution and/or absorption assisting
formulations include, but are not limited to, U.S.:
5,108,921; 5,354,844; 5,416,016; 5,459,127; 5,521,291;
5,543,158; 5,547,932; 5,583,020; 5,591,721; 4,426,330;
10 4,534,899; 5,013,556; 5,108,921; 5,213,804; 5,227,170;
5,264,221; 5,356,633; 5,395,619; 5,416,016; 5,417,978;
5,462,854; 5,469,854; 5,512,295; 5,527,528; 5,534,259;
5,543,152; 5,556,948; 5,580,575; and 5,595,756, each of

The antisense compounds of the invention encompass any pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, or salts of such esters, or any other compound which, upon administration to an animal including a human, is capable of providing (directly or indirectly) the biologically active metabolite or residue thereof. Accordingly, for example, the disclosure is also drawn to prodrugs and pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds of the invention, pharmaceutically acceptable salts of such prodrugs, and other bioequivalents.

which is herein incorporated by reference.

25 The term "prodrug" indicates a therapeutic agent that is prepared in an inactive form that is converted to an active form (i.e., drug) within the body or cells thereof by the action of endogenous enzymes or other chemicals and/or conditions. In particular, prodrug versions of the oligonucleotides of the invention are prepared as SATE [(S-acetyl-2-thioethyl) phosphate] derivatives according to

the methods disclosed in WO 93/24510 to Gosselin et al., published December 9, 1993 or in WO 94/26764 to Imbach et al.

The term "pharmaceutically acceptable salts" refers to

5 physiologically and pharmaceutically acceptable salts of
the compounds of the invention: i.e., salts that retain the
desired biological activity of the parent compound and do
not impart undesired toxicological effects thereto.

Pharmaceutically acceptable base addition salts are 10 formed with metals or amines, such as alkali and alkaline earth metals or organic amines. Examples of metals used as cations are sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium, and the like. Examples of suitable amines are N,N'-dibenzylethylenediamine, chloroprocaine, choline, 15 diethanolamine, dicyclohexylamine, ethylenediamine, N-methylglucamine, and procaine (see, for example, Berge et al., "Pharmaceutical Salts," J. of Pharma Sci., 1977, 66, The base addition salts of said acidic compounds are prepared by contacting the free acid form with a 20 sufficient amount of the desired base to produce the salt in the conventional manner. The free acid form may be regenerated by contacting the salt form with an acid and isolating the free acid in the conventional manner. free acid forms differ from their respective salt forms 25 somewhat in certain physical properties such as solubility in polar solvents, but otherwise the salts are equivalent to their respective free acid for purposes of the present invention. As used herein, a "pharmaceutical addition salt" includes a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of an 30 acid form of one of the components of the compositions of the invention. These include organic or inorganic acid

salts of the amines. Preferred acid salts are the hydrochlorides, acetates, salicylates, nitrates and phosphates. Other suitable pharmaceutically acceptable salts are well known to those skilled in the art and 5 include basic salts of a variety of inorganic and organic acids, such as, for example, with inorganic acids, such as for example hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, sulfuric acid or phosphoric acid; with organic carboxylic, sulfonic, sulfo or phospho acids or N-substituted sulfamic acids, for 10 example acetic acid, propionic acid, glycolic acid, succinic acid, maleic acid, hydroxymaleic acid, methylmaleic acid, fumaric acid, malic acid, tartaric acid, lactic acid, oxalic acid, gluconic acid, glucaric acid, glucuronic acid, citric acid, benzoic acid, cinnamic acid, 15 mandelic acid, salicylic acid, 4-aminosalicylic acid, 2-phenoxybenzoic acid, 2-acetoxybenzoic acid, embonic acid, nicotinic acid or isonicotinic acid; and with amino acids, such as the 20 alpha-amino acids involved in the synthesis of proteins in nature, for example glutamic acid or 20 aspartic acid, and also with phenylacetic acid, methanesulfonic acid, ethanesulfonic acid, 2-hydroxyethanesulfonic acid, ethane-1,2-disulfonic acid, benzenesulfonic acid, 4-methylbenzenesulfoic acid, naphthalene-2-sulfonic acid, naphthalene-1,5-disulfonic 25 acid, 2- or 3-phosphoglycerate, glucose-6-phosphate, N-cyclohexylsulfamic acid (with the formation of cyclamates), or with other acid organic compounds, such as ascorbic acid. Pharmaceutically acceptable salts of compounds may also be prepared with a pharmaceutically 30 acceptable cation. Suitable pharmaceutically acceptable cations are well known to those skilled in the art and

and result therein in the contract of

include alkaline, alkaline earth, ammonium and quaternary ammonium cations. Carbonates or hydrogen carbonates are also possible.

For oligonucleotides, preferred examples of 5 pharmaceutically acceptable salts include but are not limited to (a) salts formed with cations such as sodium, potassium, ammonium, magnesium, calcium, polyamines such as spermine and spermidine, etc.; (b) acid addition salts formed with inorganic acids, for example hydrochloric acid, 10 hydrobromic acid, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, nitric acid and the like; (c) salts formed with organic acids such as, for example, acetic acid, oxalic acid, tartaric acid, succinic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, gluconic acid, citric acid, malic acid, ascorbic acid, benzoic acid, 15 tannic acid, palmitic acid, alginic acid, polyglutamic acid, naphthalenesulfonic acid, methanesulfonic acid, p-toluenesulfonic acid, naphthalenedisulfonic acid, polygalacturonic acid, and the like; and (d) salts formed from elemental anions such as chlorine, bromine, and 20 iodine.

The antisense compounds of the present invention can be utilized for diagnostics, therapeutics, prophylaxis and as research reagents and kits. For therapeutics, an animal, preferably a human, suspected of having a disease or disorder which can be treated by modulating the expression of PI3K p85 is treated by administering antisense compounds in accordance with this invention. The compounds of the invention can be utilized in pharmaceutical compositions by adding an effective amount of an antisense compound to a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier. Use of the antisense

compounds and methods of the invention may also be useful prophylactically, e.g., to prevent or delay infection, inflammation or tumor formation, for example.

The antisense compounds of the invention are useful

for research and diagnostics, because these compounds
hybridize to nucleic acids encoding PI3K p85, enabling
sandwich and other assays to easily be constructed to
exploit this fact. Hybridization of the antisense
oligonucleotides of the invention with a nucleic acid
encoding PI3K p85 can be detected by means known in the
art. Such means may include conjugation of an enzyme to
the oligonucleotide, radiolabelling of the oligonucleotide
or any other suitable detection means. Kits using such
detection means for detecting the level of PI3K p85 in a
sample may also be prepared.

The present invention also includes pharmaceutical compositions and formulations which include the antisense compounds of the invention. The pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention may be administered 20 in a number of ways depending upon whether local or systemic treatment is desired and upon the area to be treated. Administration may be topical (including ophthalmic and to mucous membranes including vaginal and rectal delivery), pulmonary, e.g., by inhalation or 25 insufflation of powders or aerosols, including by nebulizer; intratracheal, intranasal, epidermal and transdermal), oral or parenteral. Parenteral administration includes intravenous, intraarterial, subcutaneous, intraperitoneal or intramuscular injection or 30 infusion; or intracranial, e.g., intrathecal or intraventricular, administration. Oligonucleotides with at

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least one 2'-0-methoxyethyl modification are believed to be particularly useful for oral administration.

Pharmaceutical compositions and formulations for topical administration may include transdermal patches, 5 ointments, lotions, creams, gels, drops, suppositories, sprays, liquids and powders. Conventional pharmaceutical carriers, aqueous, powder or oily bases, thickeners and the like may be necessary or desirable. Coated condoms, gloves and the like may also be useful.

Compositions and formulations for oral administration include powders or granules, suspensions or solutions in water or non-aqueous media, capsules, sachets or tablets. Thickeners, flavoring agents, diluents, emulsifiers, dispersing aids or binders may be desirable.

Compositions and formulations for parenteral, intrathecal or intraventricular administration may include sterile aqueous solutions which may also contain buffers, diluents and other suitable additives such as, but not limited to, penetration enhancers, carrier compounds and 20 other pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients.

Pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention include, but are not limited to, solutions, emulsions, and liposome-containing formulations. These compositions may be generated from a variety of components that include, but 25 are not limited to, preformed liquids, self-emulsifying solids and self-emulsifying semisolids.

The pharmaceutical formulations of the present invention, which may conveniently be presented in unit dosage form, may be prepared according to conventional 30 techniques well known in the pharmaceutical industry. Such techniques include the step of bringing into association

the active ingredients with the pharmaceutical carrier(s) or excipient(s). In general the formulations are prepared by uniformly and intimately bringing into association the active ingredients with liquid carriers or finely divided solid carriers or both, and then, if necessary, shaping the product.

The compositions of the present invention may be formulated into any of many possible dosage forms such as, but not limited to, tablets, capsules, liquid syrups, soft gels, suppositories, and enemas. The compositions of the present invention may also be formulated as suspensions in aqueous, non-aqueous or mixed media. Aqueous suspensions may further contain substances which increase the viscosity of the suspension including, for example, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, sorbitol and/or dextran. The suspension may also contain stabilizers.

In one embodiment of the present invention the pharmaceutical compositions may be formulated and used as foams. Pharmaceutical foams include formulations such as, but not limited to, emulsions, microemulsions, creams, jellies and liposomes. While basically similar in nature these formulations vary in the components and the consistency of the final product. The preparation of such compositions and formulations is generally known to those skilled in the pharmaceutical and formulation arts and may be applied to the formulation of the compositions of the present invention.

Emulsions

The compositions of the present invention may be prepared and formulated as emulsions. Emulsions are

typically heterogenous systems of one liquid dispersed in another in the form of droplets usually exceeding 0.1 μm in diameter. (Idson, in *Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms*, Lieberman, Rieger and Banker (Eds.), 1988, Marcel Dekker,

- Inc., New York, N.Y., volume 1, p. 199; Rosoff, in Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms, Lieberman, Rieger and Banker (Eds.), 1988, Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, N.Y., Volume 1, p. 245; Block in Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms, Lieberman, Rieger and Banker (Eds.), 1988, Marcel Dekker, Inc., New
- 10 York, N.Y., volume 2, p. 335; Higuchi et al., in

 Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mack Publishing Co.,

 Easton, PA, 1985, p. 301). Emulsions are often biphasic

 systems comprising of two immiscible liquid phases

 intimately mixed and dispersed with each other. In
- 15 general, emulsions may be either water-in-oil (w/o) or of the oil-in-water (o/w) variety. When an aqueous phase is finely divided into and dispersed as minute droplets into a bulk oily phase the resulting composition is called a water-in-oil (w/o) emulsion. Alternatively, when an oily
- phase is finely divided into and dispersed as minute droplets into a bulk aqueous phase the resulting composition is called an oil-in-water (o/w) emulsion. Emulsions may contain additional components in addition to the dispersed phases and the active drug which may be
- phase or itself as a separate phase. Pharmaceutical excipients such as emulsifiers, stabilizers, dyes, and anti-oxidants may also be present in emulsions as needed. Pharmaceutical emulsions may also be multiple emulsions
- that are comprised of more than two phases such as, for example, in the case of oil-in-water-in-oil (o/w/o) and

water-in-oil-in-water (w/o/w) emulsions. Such complex formulations often provide certain advantages that simple binary emulsions do not. Multiple emulsions in which individual oil droplets of an o/w emulsion enclose small water droplets constitute a w/o/w emulsion. Likewise a system of oil droplets enclosed in globules of water stabilized in an oily continuous provides an o/w/o emulsion.

Emulsions are characterized by little or no 10 thermodynamic stability. Often, the dispersed or discontinuous phase of the emulsion is well dispersed into the external or continuous phase and maintained in this form through the means of emulsifiers or the viscosity of the formulation. Either of the phases of the emulsion may 15 be a semisolid or a solid, as is the case of emulsion-style ointment bases and creams. Other means of stabilizing emulsions entail the use of emulsifiers that may be incorporated into either phase of the emulsion. Emulsifiers may broadly be classified into four categories: 20 synthetic surfactants, naturally occurring emulsifiers, absorption bases, and finely dispersed solids (Idson, in Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms, Lieberman, Rieger and Banker (Eds.), 1988, Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, N.Y., volume 1, p. 199).

25 Synthetic surfactants, also known as surface active agents, have found wide applicability in the formulation of emulsions and have been reviewed in the literature (Rieger, in *Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms*, Lieberman, Rieger and Banker (Eds.), 1988, Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, N.Y., volume 1, p. 285; Idson, in *Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms*, Lieberman, Rieger and Banker (Eds.), Marcel Dekker, Inc.,

New York, N.Y., 1988, volume 1, p. 199). Surfactants are typically amphiphilic and comprise a hydrophilic and a hydrophobic portion. The ratio of the hydrophilic to the hydrophobic nature of the surfactant has been termed the hydrophile/lipophile balance (HLB) and is a valuable tool in categorizing and selecting surfactants in the preparation of formulations. Surfactants may be classified into different classes based on the nature of the hydrophilic group: nonionic, anionic, cationic and amphoteric (Rieger, in *Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms*, Lieberman, Rieger and Banker (Eds.), 1988, Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, N.Y., volume 1, p. 285).

Naturally occurring emulsifiers used in emulsion formulations include lanolin, beeswax, phosphatides,

lecithin and acacia. Absorption bases possess hydrophilic properties such that they can soak up water to form w/o emulsions yet retain their semisolid consistencies, such as anhydrous lanolin and hydrophilic petrolatum. Finely divided solids have also been used as good emulsifiers especially in combination with surfactants and in viscous preparations. These include polar inorganic solids, such as heavy metal hydroxides, nonswelling clays such as bentonite, attapulgite, hectorite, kaolin, montmorillonite, colloidal aluminum silicate and colloidal magnesium

aluminum silicate, pigments and nonpolar solids such as carbon or glyceryl tristearate.

A large variety of non-emulsifying materials are also included in emulsion formulations and contribute to the properties of emulsions. These include fats, oils, waxes, fatty acids, fatty alcohols, fatty esters, humectants, hydrophilic colloids, preservatives and antioxidants

(Block, in *Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms*, Lieberman, Rieger and Banker (Eds.), **1988**, Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, N.Y., volume 1, p. 335; Idson, in *Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms*, Lieberman, Rieger and Banker (Eds.), **1988**, Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, N.Y., volume 1, p. 199).

Hydrophilic colloids or hydrocolloids include naturally occurring gums and synthetic polymers such as polysaccharides (for example, acacia, agar, alginic acid, carrageenan, guar gum, karaya gum, and tragacanth),

10 cellulose derivatives (for example, carboxymethylcellulose and carboxypropylcellulose), and synthetic polymers (for example, carbomers, cellulose ethers, and carboxyvinyl polymers). These disperse or swell in water to form colloidal solutions that stabilize emulsions by forming

15 strong interfacial films around the dispersed-phase droplets and by increasing the viscosity of the external phase.

Since emulsions often contain a number of ingredients such as carbohydrates, proteins, sterols and phosphatides

that may readily support the growth of microbes, these formulations often incorporate preservatives. Commonly used preservatives included in emulsion formulations include methyl paraben, propyl paraben, quaternary ammonium salts, benzalkonium chloride, esters of p-hydroxybenzoic

acid, and boric acid. Antioxidants are also commonly added to emulsion formulations to prevent deterioration of the formulation. Antioxidants used may be free radical scavengers such as tocopherols, alkyl gallates, butylated hydroxyanisole, butylated hydroxytoluene, or reducing

agents such as ascorbic acid and sodium metabisulfite, and

antioxidant synergists such as citric acid, tartaric acid, and lecithin.

The application of emulsion formulations via dermatological, oral and parenteral routes and methods for 5 their manufacture have been reviewed in the literature (Idson, in Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms, Lieberman, Rieger and Banker (Eds.), 1988, Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, N.Y., volume 1, p. 199). Emulsion formulations for oral delivery have been very widely used because of reasons of 10 ease of formulation, efficacy from an absorption and bioavailability standpoint. (Rosoff, in Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms, Lieberman, Rieger and Banker (Eds.), 1988, Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, N.Y., volume 1, p. 245; Idson, in Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms, Lieberman, Rieger 15 and Banker (Eds.), 1988, Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, N.Y., volume 1, p. 199). Mineral-oil base laxatives, oilsoluble vitamins and high fat nutritive preparations are among the materials that have commonly been administered orally as o/w emulsions.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the compositions of oligonucleotides and nucleic acids are formulated as microemulsions. A microemulsion may be defined as a system of water, oil and amphiphile which is a single optically isotropic and thermodynamically stable liquid solution (Rosoff, in *Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms*, Lieberman, Rieger and Banker (Eds.), 1988, Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, N.Y., volume 1, p. 245). Typically microemulsions are systems that are prepared by first dispersing an oil in an aqueous surfactant solution and then adding a sufficient amount of a fourth component, generally an intermediate chain-length alcohol to form a

transparent system. Therefore, microemulsions have also been described as thermodynamically stable, isotropically clear dispersions of two immiscible liquids that are stabilized by interfacial films of surface-active molecules (Leung and Shah in: Controlled Release of Drugs: Polymers

- 5 (Leung and Shah, in: Controlled Release of Drugs: Polymers and Aggregate Systems, Rosoff, M., Ed., 1989, VCH
 Publishers, New York, pages 185-215). Microemulsions
 commonly are prepared via a combination of three to five
 components that include oil, water, surfactant,
- of the water-in-oil (w/o) or an oil-in-water (o/w) type is dependent on the properties of the oil and surfactant used and on the structure and geometric packing of the polar heads and hydrocarbon tails of the surfactant molecules

15 (Schott, in Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mack Publishing Co., Easton, PA, 1985, p. 271).

The phenomenological approach utilizing phase diagrams has been extensively studied and has yielded a comprehensive knowledge, to one skilled in the art, of how to formulate microemulsions (Rosoff, in Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms, Lieberman, Rieger and Banker (Eds.), 1988, Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, N.Y., volume 1, p. 245; Block, in Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms, Lieberman, Rieger and Banker (Eds.), 1988, Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, N.Y., volume 1, p. 335). Compared to conventional emulsions, microemulsions offer the advantage of solubilizing water-insoluble drugs in a formulation of thermodynamically stable droplets that are formed

Surfactants used in the preparation of microemulsions include, but are not limited to, ionic surfactants, non-

spontaneously.

ionic surfactants, Brij 96, polyoxyethylene oleyl ethers, polyglycerol fatty acid esters, tetraglycerol monolaurate (ML310), tetraglycerol monooleate (MO310), hexaglycerol monooleate (PO310), hexaglycerol pentaoleate (PO500),

decaglycerol monocaprate (MCA750), decaglycerol monooleate (MO750), decaglycerol sequioleate (SO750), decaglycerol decaoleate (DAO750), alone or in combination with cosurfactants. The cosurfactant, usually a short-chain alcohol such as ethanol, 1-propanol, and 1-butanol, serves to increase the interfacial fluidity by penetrating into

the surfactant film and consequently creating a disordered film because of the void space generated among surfactant molecules. Microemulsions may, however, be prepared without the use of cosurfactants and alcohol-free self-

15 emulsifying microemulsion systems are known in the art.

The aqueous phase may typically be, but is not limited to,
water, an aqueous solution of the drug, glycerol, PEG300,
PEG400, polyglycerols, propylene glycols, and derivatives
of ethylene glycol. The oil phase may include, but is not

limited to, materials such as Captex 300, Captex 355,
Capmul MCM, fatty acid esters, medium chain (C8-C12) mono,
di, and tri-glycerides, polyoxyethylated glyceryl fatty
acid esters, fatty alcohols, polyglycolized glycerides,
saturated polyglycolized C8-C10 glycerides, vegetable oils
and silicone oil.

Microemulsions are particularly of interest from the standpoint of drug solubilization and the enhanced absorption of drugs. Lipid based microemulsions (both o/w and w/o) have been proposed to enhance the oral bioavailability of drugs, including peptides (Constantinides et al., Pharmaceutical Research, 1994, 11,

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1385-1390; Ritschel, Meth. Find. Exp. Clin. Pharmacol., 1993, 13, 205). Microemulsions afford advantages of improved drug solubilization, protection of drug from enzymatic hydrolysis, possible enhancement of drug

- absorption due to surfactant-induced alterations in membrane fluidity and permeability, ease of preparation, ease of oral administration over solid dosage forms, improved clinical potency, and decreased toxicity (Constantinides et al., Pharmaceutical Research, 1994, 11,
- 10 1385; Ho et al., J. Pharm. Sci., 1996, 85, 138-143). Often microemulsions may form spontaneously when their components are brought together at ambient temperature. This may be particularly advantageous when formulating thermolabile drugs, peptides or oligonucleotides. Microemulsions have
- also been effective in the transdermal delivery of active components in both cosmetic and pharmaceutical applications. It is expected that the microemulsion compositions and formulations of the present invention will facilitate the increased systemic absorption of
- oligonucleotides and nucleic acids from the gastrointestinal tract, as well as improve the local cellular uptake of oligonucleotides and nucleic acids within the gastrointestinal tract, vagina, buccal cavity and other areas of administration.
- 25 Microemulsions of the present invention may also contain additional components and additives such as sorbitan monostearate (Grill 3), Labrasol, and penetration enhancers to improve the properties of the formulation and to enhance the absorption of the oligonucleotides and
- nucleic acids of the present invention. Penetration enhancers used in the microemulsions of the present

invention may be classified as belonging to one of five broad categories - surfactants, fatty acids, bile salts, chelating agents, and non-chelating non-surfactants (Lee et al., Critical Reviews in Therapeutic Drug Carrier Systems, 1991, p. 92). Each of these classes has been discussed above.

Liposomes

There are many organized surfactant structures besides microemulsions that have been studied and used for the formulation of drugs. These include monolayers, micelles, bilayers and vesicles. Vesicles, such as liposomes, have attracted great interest because of their specificity and the duration of action they offer from the standpoint of drug delivery. As used in the present invention, the term "liposome" means a vesicle composed of amphiphilic lipids arranged in a spherical bilayer or bilayers.

Liposomes are unilamellar or multilamellar vesicles which have a membrane formed from a lipophilic material and an aqueous interior. The aqueous portion contains the composition to be delivered. Cationic liposomes possess the advantage of being able to fuse to the cell wall. Non-cationic liposomes, although not able to fuse as efficiently with the cell wall, are taken up by macrophages in vivo.

In order to cross intact mammalian skin, lipid vesicles must pass through a series of fine pores, each with a diameter less than 50 nm, under the influence of a suitable transdermal gradient. Therefore, it is desirable to use a liposome which is highly deformable and able to pass through such fine pores.

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Further advantages of liposomes include; liposomes obtained from natural phospholipids are biocompatible and biodegradable; liposomes can incorporate a wide range of water and lipid soluble drugs; liposomes can protect 5 encapsulated drugs in their internal compartments from metabolism and degradation (Rosoff, in Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms, Lieberman, Rieger and Banker (Eds.), 1988, Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, N.Y., volume 1, p. 245). Important considerations in the preparation of liposome 10 formulations are the lipid surface charge, vesicle size and the aqueous volume of the liposomes.

Liposomes are useful for the transfer and delivery of active ingredients to the site of action. Because the liposomal membrane is structurally similar to biological 15 membranes, when liposomes are applied to a tissue, the liposomes start to merge with the cellular membranes. the merging of the liposome and cell progresses, the liposomal contents are emptied into the cell where the active agent may act.

Liposomal formulations have been the focus of extensive investigation as the mode of delivery for many There is growing evidence that for topical administration, liposomes present several advantages over other formulations. Such advantages include reduced side-25 effects related to high systemic absorption of the administered drug, increased accumulation of the administered drug at the desired target, and the ability to administer a wide variety of drugs, both hydrophilic and hydrophobic, into the skin.

Several reports have detailed the ability of liposomes 30 to deliver agents including high-molecular weight DNA into

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the skin. Compounds including analgesics, antibodies, hormones and high-molecular weight DNAs have been administered to the skin. The majority of applications resulted in the targeting of the upper epidermis.

Liposomes fall into two broad classes. Cationic liposomes are positively charged liposomes which interact with the negatively charged DNA molecules to form a stable complex. The positively charged DNA/liposome complex binds to the negatively charged cell surface and is internalized in an endosome. Due to the acidic pH within the endosome, the liposomes are ruptured, releasing their contents into the cell cytoplasm (Wang et al., Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun., 1987, 147, 980-985).

Liposomes which are pH-sensitive or 15 negatively-charged, entrap DNA rather than complex with it. Since both the DNA and the lipid are similarly charged, repulsion rather than complex formation occurs. Nevertheless, some DNA is entrapped within the aqueous interior of these liposomes. pH-sensitive liposomes have 20 been used to deliver DNA encoding the thymidine kinase gene to cell monolayers in culture. Expression of the exogenous gene was detected in the target cells (Zhou et al., Journal of Controlled Release, 1992, 19, 269-274).

One major type of liposomal composition includes phospholipids other than naturally-derived phosphatidylcholine. Neutral liposome compositions, for example, can be formed from dimyristoyl phosphatidylcholine (DMPC) or dipalmitoyl phosphatidylcholine (DPPC). Anionic liposome compositions generally are formed from dimyristoyl 30 phosphatidylglycerol, while anionic fusogenic liposomes are formed primarily from dioleoyl phosphatidylethanolamine

(DOPE). Another type of liposomal composition is formed from phosphatidylcholine (PC) such as, for example, soybean PC, and egg PC. Another type is formed from mixtures of phospholipid and/or phosphatidylcholine and/or cholesterol.

Several studies have assessed the topical delivery of liposomal drug formulations to the skin. Application of liposomes containing interferon to guinea pig skin resulted in a reduction of skin herpes sores while delivery of interferon via other means (e.g. as a solution or as an emulsion) were ineffective (Weiner et al., Journal of Drug Targeting, 1992, 2, 405-410). Further, an additional study tested the efficacy of interferon administered as part of a liposomal formulation to the administration of interferon using an aqueous system, and concluded that the liposomal formulation was superior to aqueous administration (du Plessis et al., Antiviral Research, 1992, 18, 259-265).

Non-ionic liposomal systems have also been examined to determine their utility in the delivery of drugs to the skin, in particular systems comprising non-ionic surfactant and cholesterol. Non-ionic liposomal formulations comprising Novasome™ I (glyceryl dilaurate/cholesterol/polyoxyethylene-10-stearyl ether) and Novasome™ II (glyceryl distearate/ cholesterol/polyoxyethylene-10-stearyl ether) were used to deliver cyclosporin-A into the dermis of mouse skin. Results indicated that such non-ionic liposomal systems were effective in facilitating the deposition of cyclosporin-A into different layers of the skin (Hu et al. S.T.P.Pharma. Sci., 1994, 4, 6, 466).

Liposomes also include "sterically stabilized" liposomes, a term which, as used herein, refers to

- liposomes comprising one or more specialized lipids that, when incorporated into liposomes, result in enhanced circulation lifetimes relative to liposomes lacking such specialized lipids. Examples of sterically stabilized
- liposomes are those in which part of the vesicle-forming lipid portion of the liposome (A) comprises one or more glycolipids, such as monosialoganglioside G_{M1} , or (B) is derivatized with one or more hydrophilic polymers, such as a polyethylene glycol (PEG) moiety. While not wishing to
- be bound by any particular theory, it is thought in the art that, at least for sterically stabilized liposomes containing gangliosides, sphingomyelin, or PEG-derivatized lipids, the enhanced circulation half-life of these sterically stabilized liposomes derives from a reduced
- uptake into cells of the reticuloendothelial system (RES)

 (Allen et al., FEBS Letters, 1987, 223, 42; Wu et al.,

 Cancer Research, 1993, 53, 3765). Various liposomes

 comprising one or more glycolipids are known in the art.

 Papahadjopoulos et al. (Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci., 1987, 507,
- 20 64) reported the ability of monosialoganglioside G_{M1} , galactocerebroside sulfate and phosphatidylinositol to improve blood half-lives of liposomes. These findings were expounded upon by Gabizon et al. (Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A., 1988, 85, 6949). U.S. Patent No. 4,837,028 and WO
- 88/04924, both to Allen et al., disclose liposomes comprising (1) sphingomyelin and (2) the ganglioside $G_{\rm M1}$ or a galactocerebroside sulfate ester. U.S. Patent No. 5,543,152 (Webb et al.) discloses liposomes comprising sphingomyelin. Liposomes comprising 1,2-sn-
- dimyristoylphosphatidylcholine are disclosed in WO 97/13499 (Lim et al.).

Many liposomes comprising lipids derivatized with one or more hydrophilic polymers, and methods of preparation thereof, are known in the art. Sunamoto et al. (Bull. Chem. Soc. Jpn., 1980, 53, 2778) described liposomes 5 comprising a nonionic detergent, $2C_{12}15G$, that contains a PEG moiety. Illum et al. (FEBS Lett., 1984, 167, 79) noted that hydrophilic coating of polystyrene particles with polymeric glycols results in significantly enhanced blood half-lives. Synthetic phospholipids modified by the 10 attachment of carboxylic groups of polyalkylene glycols (e.g., PEG) are described by Sears (U.S. Patent Nos. 4,426,330 and 4,534,899). Klibanov et al. (FEBS Lett., 1990, 268, 235) described experiments demonstrating that liposomes comprising phosphatidylethanolamine (PE) 15 derivatized with PEG or PEG stearate have significant increases in blood circulation half-lives. Blume et al. (Biochimica et Biophysica Acta, 1990, 1029, 91) extended such observations to other PEG-derivatized phospholipids, e.g., DSPE-PEG, formed from the combination of 20 distearoylphosphatidylethanolamine (DSPE) and PEG. Liposomes having covalently bound PEG moieties on their external surface are described in European Patent No. EP 0

445 131 B1 and WO 90/04384 to Fisher. Liposome compositions containing 1-20 mole percent of PE derivatized with PEG, and methods of use thereof, are described by Woodle et al. (U.S. Patent Nos. 5,013,556 and 5,356,633) and Martin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,213,804 and European Patent No. EP 0 496 813 B1). Liposomes comprising a number of other lipid-polymer conjugates are disclosed in WO 91/05545 and U.S. Patent No. 5,225,212 (both to Martin et

al.) and in WO 94/20073 (Zalipsky et al.) Liposomes comprising PEG-modified ceramide lipids are described in WO 96/10391 (Choi et al.). U.S. Patent Nos. 5,540,935 (Miyazaki et al.) and 5,556,948 (Tagawa et al.) describe
PEG-containing liposomes that can be further derivatized with functional moieties on their surfaces.

A limited number of liposomes comprising nucleic acids are known in the art. WO 96/40062 to Thierry et al. discloses methods for encapsulating high molecular weight nucleic acids in liposomes. U.S. Patent No. 5,264,221 to Tagawa et al. discloses protein-bonded liposomes and asserts that the contents of such liposomes may include an antisense RNA. U.S. Patent No. 5,665,710 to Rahman et al. describes certain methods of encapsulating oligodeoxynucleotides in liposomes. WO 97/04787 to Love et al. discloses liposomes comprising antisense oligonucleotides targeted to the raf gene.

Transfersomes are yet another type of liposomes, and are highly deformable lipid aggregates which are attractive candidates for drug delivery vehicles. Transfersomes may be described as lipid droplets which are so highly deformable that they are easily able to penetrate through pores which are smaller than the droplet. Transfersomes are adaptable to the environment in which they are used, e.g. they are self-optimizing (adaptive to the shape of pores in the skin), self-repairing, frequently reach their targets without fragmenting, and often self-loading. To make transfersomes it is possible to add surface edgeactivators, usually surfactants, to a standard liposomal composition. Transfersomes have been used to deliver serum albumin to the skin. The transfersome-mediated delivery of

serum albumin has been shown to be as effective as subcutaneous injection of a solution containing serum albumin.

Surfactants find wide application in formulations such as emulsions (including microemulsions) and liposomes. The most common way of classifying and ranking the properties of the many different types of surfactants, both natural and synthetic, is by the use of the hydrophile/lipophile balance (HLB). The nature of the hydrophilic group (also known as the "head") provides the most useful means for categorizing the different surfactants used in formulations (Rieger, in *Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms*, Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, NY, 1988, p. 285).

If the surfactant molecule is not ionized, it is
classified as a nonionic surfactant. Nonionic surfactants
find wide application in pharmaceutical and cosmetic
products and are usable over a wide range of pH values. In
general their HLB values range from 2 to about 18 depending
on their structure. Nonionic surfactants include nonionic
esters such as ethylene glycol esters, propylene glycol
esters, glyceryl esters, polyglyceryl esters, sorbitan
esters, sucrose esters, and ethoxylated esters. Nonionic
alkanolamides and ethers such as fatty alcohol ethoxylates,
propoxylated alcohols, and ethoxylated/propoxylated block
polymers are also included in this class. The
polyoxyethylene surfactants are the most popular members of
the nonionic surfactant class.

If the surfactant molecule carries a negative charge when it is dissolved or dispersed in water, the surfactant is classified as anionic. Anionic surfactants include carboxylates such as soaps, acyl lactylates, acyl amides of

amino acids, esters of sulfuric acid such as alkyl sulfates and ethoxylated alkyl sulfates, sulfonates such as alkyl benzene sulfonates, acyl isethionates, acyl taurates and sulfosuccinates, and phosphates. The most important members of the anionic surfactant class are the alkyl sulfates and the soaps.

If the surfactant molecule carries a positive charge when it is dissolved or dispersed in water, the surfactant is classified as cationic. Cationic surfactants include quaternary ammonium salts and ethoxylated amines. The quaternary ammonium salts are the most used members of this class.

If the surfactant molecule has the ability to carry either a positive or negative charge, the surfactant is classified as amphoteric. Amphoteric surfactants include acrylic acid derivatives, substituted alkylamides, Nalkylbetaines and phosphatides.

The use of surfactants in drug products, formulations and in emulsions has been reviewed (Rieger, in
20 Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms, Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, NY, 1988, p. 285).

Penetration Enhancers

In one embodiment, the present invention employs various penetration enhancers to effect the efficient

25 delivery of nucleic acids, particularly oligonucleotides, to the skin of animals. Most drugs are present in solution in both ionized and nonionized forms. However, usually only lipid soluble or lipophilic drugs readily cross cell membranes. It has been discovered that even non-lipophilic drugs may cross cell membranes if the membrane to be

crossed is treated with a penetration enhancer. In addition to aiding the diffusion of non-lipophilic drugs across cell membranes, penetration enhancers also enhance the permeability of lipophilic drugs.

Penetration enhancers may be classified as belonging to one of five broad categories, i.e., surfactants, fatty acids, bile salts, chelating agents, and non-chelating non-surfactants (Lee et al., Critical Reviews in Therapeutic Drug Carrier Systems, 1991, p.92). Each of the above mentioned classes of penetration enhancers are described below in greater detail.

Surfactants: In connection with the present invention, surfactants (or "surface-active agents") are chemical

15 entities which, when dissolved in an aqueous solution, reduce the surface tension of the solution or the interfacial tension between the aqueous solution and another liquid, with the result that absorption of oligonucleotides through the mucosa is enhanced. In

20 addition to bile salts and fatty acids, these penetration enhancers include, for example, sodium lauryl sulfate, polyoxyethylene-9-lauryl ether and polyoxyethylene-20-cetyl ether) (Lee et al., Critical Reviews in Therapeutic Drug Carrier Systems, 1991, p.92); and perfluorochemical

25 emulsions, such as FC-43. Takahashi et al., J. Pharm.

Pharmacol., 1988, 40, 252).

Fatty acids: Various fatty acids and their derivatives which act as penetration enhancers include, for example, oleic acid, lauric acid, capric acid (n-decanoic acid),

30 myristic acid, palmitic acid, stearic acid, linoleic acid,

linolenic acid, dicaprate, tricaprate, monoolein (1monooleoyl-rac-glycerol), dilaurin, caprylic acid, arachidonic acid, glycerol 1-monocaprate, 1dodecylazacycloheptan-2-one, acylcarnitines, acylcholines, 5 C_{1-10} alkyl esters thereof (e.g., methyl, isopropyl and tbutyl), and mono- and di-glycerides thereof (i.e., oleate, laurate, caprate, myristate, palmitate, stearate, linoleate, etc.) (Lee et al., Critical Reviews in Therapeutic Drug Carrier Systems, 1991, p.92; Muranishi, 10 Critical Reviews in Therapeutic Drug Carrier Systems, 1990, 7, 1-33; El Hariri et al., J. Pharm. Pharmacol., 1992, 44, 651-654).

Bile salts: The physiological role of bile includes the facilitation of dispersion and absorption of lipids and 15 fat-soluble vitamins (Brunton, Chapter 38 in: Goodman & Gilman's The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics, 9th Ed., Hardman et al. Eds., McGraw-Hill, New York, 1996, pp. 934-935). Various natural bile salts, and their synthetic derivatives, act as penetration enhancers. Thus the term 20 "bile salts" includes any of the naturally occurring components of bile as well as any of their synthetic derivatives. The bile salts of the invention include, for example, cholic acid (or its pharmaceutically acceptable sodium salt, sodium cholate), dehydrocholic acid (sodium 25 dehydrocholate), deoxycholic acid (sodium deoxycholate), glucholic acid (sodium glucholate), glycholic acid (sodium glycocholate), glycodeoxycholic acid (sodium glycodeoxycholate), taurocholic acid (sodium taurocholate), taurodeoxycholic acid (sodium taurodeoxycholate),

30 chenodeoxycholic acid (sodium chenodeoxycholate),

ursodeoxycholic acid (UDCA), sodium tauro-24,25-dihydrofusidate (STDHF), sodium glycodihydrofusidate and
polyoxyethylene-9-lauryl ether (POE) (Lee et al., Critical
Reviews in Therapeutic Drug Carrier Systems, 1991, page 92;

Swinyard, Chapter 39 In: Remington's Pharmaceutical
Sciences, 18th Ed., Gennaro, ed., Mack Publishing Co.,
Easton, PA, 1990, pages 782-783; Muranishi, Critical
Reviews in Therapeutic Drug Carrier Systems, 1990, 7, 1-33;
Yamamoto et al., J. Pharm. Exp. Ther., 1992, 263, 25;

Yamashita et al., J. Pharm. Sci., 1990, 79, 579-583).

Chelating Agents: Chelating agents, as used in connection with the present invention, can be defined as compounds that remove metallic ions from solution by forming complexes therewith, with the result that 15 absorption of oligonucleotides through the mucosa is enhanced. With regards to their use as penetration enhancers in the present invention, chelating agents have the added advantage of also serving as DNase inhibitors, as most characterized DNA nucleases require a divalent metal 20 ion for catalysis and are thus inhibited by chelating agents (Jarrett, J. Chromatogr., 1993, 618, 315-339). Chelating agents of the invention include but are not limited to disodium ethylenediaminetetraacetate (EDTA), citric acid, salicylates (e.g., sodium salicylate, 5-25 methoxysalicylate and homovanilate), N-acyl derivatives of collagen, laureth-9 and N-amino acyl derivatives of betadiketones (enamines) (Lee et al., Critical Reviews in Therapeutic Drug Carrier Systems, 1991, page 92; Muranishi,

Critical Reviews in Therapeutic Drug Carrier Systems, 1990, 7, 1-33; Buur et al., J. Control Rel., 1990, 14, 43-51).

Non-chelating non-surfactants: As used herein, nonchelating non-surfactant penetration enhancing compounds

5 can be defined as compounds that demonstrate insignificant
activity as chelating agents or as surfactants but that
nonetheless enhance absorption of oligonucleotides through
the alimentary mucosa (Muranishi, Critical Reviews in
Therapeutic Drug Carrier Systems, 1990, 7, 1-33). This

10 class of penetration enhancers include, for example,
unsaturated cyclic ureas, 1-alkyl- and 1-alkenylazacycloalkanone derivatives (Lee et al., Critical Reviews in
Therapeutic Drug Carrier Systems, 1991, page 92); and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agents such as diclofenac

15 sodium, indomethacin and phenylbutazone (Yamashita et al.,
J. Pharm. Pharmacol., 1987, 39, 621-626).

Agents that enhance uptake of oligonucleotides at the cellular level may also be added to the pharmaceutical and other compositions of the present invention. For example, cationic lipids, such as lipofectin (Junichi et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,705,188), cationic glycerol derivatives, and polycationic molecules, such as polylysine (Lollo et al., PCT Application WO 97/30731), are also known to enhance the cellular uptake of oligonucleotides.

Other agents may be utilized to enhance the penetration of the administered nucleic acids, including glycols such as ethylene glycol and propylene glycol, pyrrols such as 2-pyrrol, azones, and terpenes such as limonene and menthone.

Carriers

Certain compositions of the present invention also incorporate carrier compounds in the formulation. As used herein, "carrier compound" or "carrier" can refer to a 5 nucleic acid, or analog thereof, which is inert (i.e., does not possess biological activity per se) but is recognized as a nucleic acid by in vivo processes that reduce the bioavailability of a nucleic acid having biological activity by, for example, degrading the biologically active 10 nucleic acid or promoting its removal from circulation. The coadministration of a nucleic acid and a carrier compound, typically with an excess of the latter substance, can result in a substantial reduction of the amount of nucleic acid recovered in the liver, kidney or other 15 extracirculatory reservoirs, presumably due to competition between the carrier compound and the nucleic acid for a common receptor. For example, the recovery of a partially phosphorothioate oligonucleotide in hepatic tissue can be reduced when it is coadministered with polyinosinic acid, 20 dextran sulfate, polycytidic acid or 4-acetamido-4'isothiocyano-stilbene-2,2'-disulfonic acid (Miyao et al., Antisense Res. Dev., 1995, 5, 115-121; Takakura et al., Antisense & Nucl. Acid Drug Dev., 1996, 6, 177-183).

Excipients

In contrast to a carrier compound, a "pharmaceutical carrier" or "excipient" is a pharmaceutically acceptable solvent, suspending agent or any other pharmacologically inert vehicle for delivering one or more nucleic acids to an animal. The excipient may be liquid or solid and is selected, with the planned manner of administration in

mind, so as to provide for the desired bulk, consistency, etc., when combined with a nucleic acid and the other components of a given pharmaceutical composition. pharmaceutical carriers include, but are not limited to, 5 binding agents (e.g., pregelatinized maize starch, polyvinylpyrrolidone or hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, etc.); fillers (e.g., lactose and other sugars, microcrystalline cellulose, pectin, gelatin, calcium sulfate, ethyl cellulose, polyacrylates or calcium hydrogen 10 phosphate, etc.); lubricants (e.g., magnesium stearate, talc, silica, colloidal silicon dioxide, stearic acid, metallic stearates, hydrogenated vegetable oils, corn starch, polyethylene glycols, sodium benzoate, sodium acetate, etc.); disintegrants (e.g., starch, sodium starch 15 glycolate, etc.); and wetting agents (e.g., sodium lauryl sulphate, etc.).

Pharmaceutically acceptable organic or inorganic excipient suitable for non-parenteral administration which do not deleteriously react with nucleic acids can also be used to formulate the compositions of the present invention. Suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carriers include, but are not limited to, water, salt solutions, alcohols, polyethylene glycols, gelatin, lactose, amylose, magnesium stearate, talc, silicic acid, viscous paraffin, hydroxymethylcellulose, polyvinylpyrrolidone and the like.

Formulations for topical administration of nucleic acids may include sterile and non-sterile aqueous solutions, non-aqueous solutions in common solvents such as alcohols, or solutions of the nucleic acids in liquid or solid oil bases. The solutions may also contain buffers, diluents and other suitable additives. Pharmaceutically

acceptable organic or inorganic excipients suitable for non-parenteral administration which do not deleteriously react with nucleic acids can be used.

Suitable pharmaceutically acceptable excipients

include, but are not limited to, water, salt solutions,
alcohol, polyethylene glycols, gelatin, lactose, amylose,
magnesium stearate, talc, silicic acid, viscous paraffin,
hydroxymethylcellulose, polyvinylpyrrolidone and the like.

10 Other Components

The compositions of the present invention may additionally contain other adjunct components conventionally found in pharmaceutical compositions, at their art-established usage levels. Thus, for example, the 15 compositions may contain additional, compatible, pharmaceutically-active materials such as, for example, antipruritics, astringents, local anesthetics or anti-inflammatory agents, or may contain additional materials useful in physically formulating various dosage 20 forms of the compositions of the present invention, such as dyes, flavoring agents, preservatives, antioxidants, opacifiers, thickening agents and stabilizers. However, such materials, when added, should not unduly interfere with the biological activities of the components of the 25 compositions of the present invention. The formulations can be sterilized and, if desired, mixed with auxiliary agents, e.g., lubricants, preservatives, stabilizers, wetting agents, emulsifiers, salts for influencing osmotic pressure, buffers, colorings, flavorings and/or aromatic

substances and the like which do not deleteriously interact with the nucleic acid(s) of the formulation.

Aqueous suspensions may contain substances which increase the viscosity of the suspension including, for example, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, sorbitol and/or dextran. The suspension may also contain stabilizers.

Certain embodiments of the invention provide pharmaceutical compositions containing (a) one or more antisense compounds and (b) one or more other 10 chemotherapeutic agents which function by a non-antisense mechanism. Examples of such chemotherapeutic agents include, but are not limited to, anticancer drugs such as daunorubicin, dactinomycin, doxorubicin, bleomycin, mitomycin, nitrogen mustard, chlorambucil, melphalan, 15 cyclophosphamide, 6-mercaptopurine, 6-thioquanine, cytarabine (CA), 5-fluorouracil (5-FU), floxuridine (5-FUdR), methotrexate (MTX), colchicine, vincristine, vinblastine, etoposide, teniposide, cisplatin and diethylstilbestrol (DES). See, generally, The Merck Manual 20 of Diagnosis and Therapy, 15th Ed., Berkow et al., eds., 1987, Rahway, N.J., pages 1206-1228). Anti-inflammatory drugs, including but not limited to nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs and corticosteroids, and antiviral drugs, including but not limited to ribivirin, vidarabine, 25 acyclovir and ganciclovir, may also be combined in compositions of the invention. See, generally, The Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy, 15th Ed., Berkow et al., eds., 1987, Rahway, N.J., pages 2499-2506 and 46-49, respectively). Other non-antisense chemotherapeutic agents 30 are also within the scope of this invention. Two or more

combined compounds may be used together or sequentially.

In another related embodiment, compositions of the invention may contain one or more antisense compounds, particularly oligonucleotides, targeted to a first nucleic acid and one or more additional antisense compounds

targeted to a second nucleic acid target. Numerous examples of antisense compounds are known in the art. Two or more combined compounds may be used together or sequentially.

The formulation of therapeutic compositions and their subsequent administration is believed to be within the 10 skill of those in the art. Dosing is dependent on severity and responsiveness of the disease state to be treated, with the course of treatment lasting from several days to several months, or until a cure is effected or a diminution of the disease state is achieved. Optimal dosing schedules 15 can be calculated from measurements of drug accumulation in the body of the patient. Persons of ordinary skill can easily determine optimum dosages, dosing methodologies and repetition rates. Optimum dosages may vary depending on the relative potency of individual oligonucleotides, and 20 can generally be estimated based on $EC_{50}s$ found to be effective in in vitro and in vivo animal models. general, dosage is from 0.01 ug to 100 g per kg of body weight, and may be given once or more daily, weekly, monthly or yearly, or even once every 2 to 20 years. 25 Persons of ordinary skill in the art can easily estimate repetition rates for dosing based on measured residence times and concentrations of the drug in bodily fluids or Following successful treatment, it may be desirable to have the patient undergo maintenance therapy 30 to prevent the recurrence of the disease state, wherein the oligonucleotide is administered in maintenance doses,

ranging from 0.01 ug to 100 g per kg of body weight, once or more daily, to once every 20 years.

While the present invention has been described with specificity in accordance with certain of its preferred embodiments, the following examples serve only to illustrate the invention and are not intended to limit the same.

EXAMPLES

Example 1

Nucleoside Phosphoramidites for Oligonucleotide Synthesis Deoxy and 2'-alkoxy amidites

- phosphoramidites were purchased from commercial sources
 (e.g. Chemgenes, Needham MA or Glen Research, Inc. Sterling
 VA). Other 2'-O-alkoxy substituted nucleoside amidites are
 prepared as described in U.S. Patent 5,506,351, herein
 incorporated by reference. For oligonucleotides
 synthesized using 2'-alkoxy amidites, the standard cycle
 for unmodified oligonucleotides was utilized, except the
 wait step after pulse delivery of tetrazole and base was
 increased to 360 seconds.
- Oligonucleotides containing 5-methyl-2'-deoxycytidine
 (5-Me-C) nucleotides were synthesized according to
 published methods [Sanghvi, et. al., Nucleic Acids
 Research, 1993, 21, 3197-3203] using commercially available
 phosphoramidites (Glen Research, Sterling VA or ChemGenes,
 Needham MA).

2'-Fluoro amidites

2'-Fluorodeoxyadenosine amidites

2'-fluoro oligonucleotides were synthesized as described previously [Kawasaki, et. al., J. Med. Chem., 1993, 36, 831-841] and United States patent 5,670,633, herein incorporated by reference. Briefly, the protected nucleoside N6-benzoyl-2'-deoxy-2'-fluoroadenosine was synthesized utilizing commercially available 9-beta-D-

arabinofuranosyladenine as starting material and by modifying literature procedures whereby the 2'-alpha-fluoro atom is introduced by a S_N2 -displacement of a 2'-beta-trityl group. Thus N6-benzoyl-9-beta-D-arabinofuranosyladenine was selectively protected in moderate yield as the 3',5'-ditetrahydropyranyl (THP) intermediate. Deprotection of the THP and N6-benzoyl groups was accomplished using standard methodologies and standard methods were used to obtain the 5'-dimethoxytrityl-(DMT) and 5'-DMT-3'-phosphoramidite intermediates.

2'-Fluorodeoxyguanosine

The synthesis of 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoroguanosine was accomplished using tetraisopropyldisiloxanyl (TPDS) protected 9-beta-D-arabinofuranosylguanine as starting

15 material, and conversion to the intermediate diisobutyryl-arabinofuranosylguanosine. Deprotection of the TPDS group was followed by protection of the hydroxyl group with THP to give diisobutyryl di-THP protected arabinofuranosylguanine. Selective O-deacylation and triflation was followed by treatment of the crude product with fluoride, then deprotection of the THP groups.

Standard methodologies were used to obtain the 5'-DMT- and 5'-DMT-3'-phosphoramidites.

2'-Fluorouridine

25 Synthesis of 2'-deoxy-2'-fluorouridine was accomplished by the modification of a literature procedure in which 2,2'-anhydro-1-beta-D-arabinofuranosyluracil was treated with 70% hydrogen fluoride-pyridine. Standard

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procedures were used to obtain the 5'-DMT and 5'-DMT-3'phosphoramidites.

2'-Fluorodeoxycytidine

2'-deoxy-2'-fluorocytidine was synthesized via 5 amination of 2'-deoxy-2'-fluorouridine, followed by selective protection to give N4-benzoyl-2'-deoxy-2'fluorocytidine. Standard procedures were used to obtain the 5'-DMT and 5'-DMT-3'phosphoramidites.

2'-O-(2-Methoxyethyl) modified amidites

2'-O-Methoxyethyl-substituted nucleoside amidites are prepared as follows, or alternatively, as per the methods of Martin, P., Helvetica Chimica Acta, 1995, 78, 486-504.

2,2'-Anhydro[1-(beta-D-arabinofuranosyl)-5-methyluridine]

5-Methyluridine (ribosylthymine, commercially available through Yamasa, Choshi, Japan) (72.0 g, 0.279 M), diphenylcarbonate (90.0 g, 0.420 M) and sodium bicarbonate (2.0 g, 0.024 M) were added to DMF (300 mL). The mixture was heated to reflux, with stirring, allowing the evolved carbon dioxide gas to be released in a controlled manner. After 1 hour, the slightly darkened solution was concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting syrup was poured into diethylether (2.5 L), with stirring. The product formed a gum. The ether was decanted and the residue was dissolved in a minimum amount of methanol (ca. 400 mL). The solution was poured into fresh ether (2.5 L) to yield a stiff gum. The ether was decanted and the gum was dried in a vacuum oven (60°C at 1 mm Hg for 24 h) to

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give a solid that was crushed to a light tan powder (57 g, 85% crude yield). The NMR spectrum was consistent with the structure, contaminated with phenol as its sodium salt (ca. 5%). The material was used as is for further reactions (or it can be purified further by column chromatography using a gradient of methanol in ethyl acetate (10-25%) to give a white solid, mp 222-4°C).

2'-O-Methoxyethyl-5-methyluridine

2,2'-Anhydro-5-methyluridine (195 g, 0.81 M), tris(2-10 methoxyethyl)borate (231 g, 0.98 M) and 2-methoxyethanol (1.2 L) were added to a 2 L stainless steel pressure vessel and placed in a pre-heated oil bath at 160°C. After heating for 48 hours at 155-160°C, the vessel was opened and the solution evaporated to dryness and triturated with MeOH 15 (200 mL). The residue was suspended in hot acetone (1 L). The insoluble salts were filtered, washed with acetone (150 mL) and the filtrate evaporated. The residue (280 g) was dissolved in CH₃CN (600 mL) and evaporated. A silica gel column (3 kg) was packed in CH₂Cl₂/acetone/MeOH (20:5:3) 20 containing 0.5% Et₃NH. The residue was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (250 mL) and adsorbed onto silica (150 g) prior to loading onto the column. The product was eluted with the packing solvent to give 160 g (63%) of product. Additional material was obtained by reworking impure fractions.

2'-0-Methoxyethyl-5'-0-dimethoxytrityl-5-methyluridine

2'-O-Methoxyethyl-5-methyluridine (160 g, 0.506 M) was co-evaporated with pyridine (250 mL) and the dried residue dissolved in pyridine (1.3 L). A first aliquot of dimethoxytrityl chloride (94.3 g, 0.278 M) was added and

the mixture stirred at room temperature for one hour. A second aliquot of dimethoxytrityl chloride (94.3 g, 0.278 M) was added and the reaction stirred for an additional one Methanol (170 mL) was then added to stop the hour. 5 reaction. HPLC showed the presence of approximately 70% The solvent was evaporated and triturated with product. $\mathrm{CH_{3}CN}$ (200 mL). The residue was dissolved in $\mathrm{CHCl_{3}}$ (1.5 L) and extracted with 2x500~mL of saturated $NaHCO_3$ and 2x500~mLof saturated NaCl. The organic phase was dried over Na2SO4, 10 filtered and evaporated. 275 g of residue was obtained. The residue was purified on a 3.5 kg silica gel column, packed and eluted with EtOAc/hexane/acetone (5:5:1) containing 0.5% Et₃NH. The pure fractions were evaporated to give 164 g of product. Approximately 20 g additional 15 was obtained from the impure fractions to give a total yield of 183 g (57%).

3'-O-Acety1-2'-O-methoxyethyl-5'-O-dimethoxytrityl-5-methyluridine

2'-O-Methoxyethyl-5'-O-dimethoxytrityl-5-methyluridine
20 (106 g, 0.167 M), DMF/pyridine (750 mL of a 3:1 mixture
prepared from 562 mL of DMF and 188 mL of pyridine) and
acetic anhydride (24.38 mL, 0.258 M) were combined and
stirred at room temperature for 24 hours. The reaction was
monitored by TLC by first quenching the TLC sample with the
25 addition of MeOH. Upon completion of the reaction, as
judged by TLC, MeOH (50 mL) was added and the mixture
evaporated at 35°C. The residue was dissolved in CHCl₃ (800
mL) and extracted with 2x200 mL of saturated sodium
bicarbonate and 2x200 mL of saturated NaCl. The water
30 layers were back extracted with 200 mL of CHCl₃. The

combined organics were dried with sodium sulfate and evaporated to give 122 g of residue (approx. 90% product). The residue was purified on a 3.5 kg silica gel column and eluted using EtOAc/hexane(4:1). Pure product fractions were evaporated to yield 96 g (84%). An additional 1.5 g was recovered from later fractions.

3'-O-Acetyl-2'-O-methoxyethyl-5'-O-dimethoxytrityl-5-methyl-4-triazoleuridine

A first solution was prepared by dissolving 3'-O-10 acetyl-2'-O-methoxyethyl-5'-O-dimethoxytrityl-5methyluridine (96 g, 0.144 M) in CH₃CN (700 mL) and set aside. Triethylamine (189 mL, 1.44 M) was added to a solution of triazole (90 g, 1.3 M) in CH_3CN (1 L), cooled to -5°C and stirred for 0.5 h using an overhead stirrer. POCl₃ 15 was added dropwise, over a 30 minute period, to the stirred solution maintained at 0-10°C, and the resulting mixture stirred for an additional 2 hours. The first solution was added dropwise, over a 45 minute period, to the latter solution. The resulting reaction mixture was stored 20 overnight in a cold room. Salts were filtered from the reaction mixture and the solution was evaporated. residue was dissolved in EtOAc (1 L) and the insoluble solids were removed by filtration. The filtrate was washed with 1x300 mL of NaHCO3 and 2x300 mL of saturated NaCl, 25 dried over sodium sulfate and evaporated. The residue was triturated with EtOAc to give the title compound.

2'-O-Methoxyethyl-5'-O-dimethoxytrityl-5-methylcytidine

A solution of 3'-O-acetyl-2'-O-methoxyethyl-5'-O-dimethoxytrityl-5-methyl-4-triazoleuridine (103 g, 0.141 M) in dioxane (500 mL) and NH₄OH (30 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. The dioxane solution was evaporated and the residue azeotroped with MeOH (2x200 mL). The residue was dissolved in MeOH (300 mL) and transferred to a 2 liter stainless steel pressure vessel. MeOH (400 mL) saturated with NH₃ gas was added and the vessel heated to 100°C for 2 hours (TLC showed complete conversion). The vessel contents were evaporated to dryness and the residue was dissolved in EtOAc (500 mL) and washed once with saturated NaCl (200 mL). The organics were dried over sodium sulfate and the solvent was evaporated to give 85 g (95%) of the title compound.

N4-Benzoyl-2'-0-methoxyethyl-5'-0-dimethoxytrityl-5-methylcytidine

- 2'-O-Methoxyethyl-5'-O-dimethoxytrityl-5-methylcytidine (85 g, 0.134 M) was dissolved in DMF (800 mL) and benzoic anhydride (37.2 g, 0.165 M) was added with stirring. After stirring for 3 hours, TLC showed the reaction to be approximately 95% complete. The solvent was evaporated and the residue azeotroped with MeOH (200 mL).
- The residue was dissolved in CHCl₃ (700 mL) and extracted with saturated NaHCO₃ (2x300 mL) and saturated NaCl (2x300 mL), dried over MgSO₄ and evaporated to give a residue (96 g). The residue was chromatographed on a 1.5 kg silica column using EtOAc/hexane (1:1) containing 0.5% Et₃NH as the

eluting solvent. The pure product fractions were evaporated to give 90 g (90%) of the title compound.

N4-Benzoyl-2'-O-methoxyethyl-5'-O-dimethoxytrityl-5-methylcytidine-3'-amidite

N4-Benzoyl-2'-O-methoxyethyl-5'-O-dimethoxytrityl-5-5 methylcytidine (74 g, 0.10 M) was dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (1 L). Tetrazole diisopropylamine (7.1 g) and 2-cyanoethoxy-tetra-(isopropyl) phosphite (40.5 mL, 0.123 M) were added with stirring, under a nitrogen atmosphere. The resulting 10 mixture was stirred for 20 hours at room temperature (TLC showed the reaction to be 95% complete). The reaction mixture was extracted with saturated NaHCO3 (1x300 mL) and saturated NaCl (3x300 mL). The aqueous washes were backextracted with CH_2Cl_2 (300 mL), and the extracts were 15 combined, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. obtained was chromatographed on a 1.5 kg silica column using EtOAc/hexane (3:1) as the eluting solvent. The pure fractions were combined to give 90.6 g (87%) of the title compound.

20 2'-O-(Aminooxyethyl) nucleoside amidites and 2'-O-(dimethylaminooxyethyl) nucleoside amidites

2'-(Dimethylaminooxyethoxy) nucleoside amidites

2'-(Dimethylaminooxyethoxy) nucleoside amidites [also known in the art as 2'-O-(dimethylaminooxyethyl) nucleoside amidites] are prepared as described in the following paragraphs. Adenosine, cytidine and guanosine nucleoside amidites are prepared similarly to the thymidine (5-methyluridine) except the exocyclic amines are protected

with a benzoyl moiety in the case of adenosine and cytidine and with isobutyryl in the case of guanosine.

5'-O-tert-Butyldiphenylsilyl-O²-2'-anhydro-5-methyluridine

02-2'-anhydro-5-methyluridine (Pro. Bio. Sint., Varese, Italy, 100.0g, 0.416 mmol), dimethylaminopyridine (0.66q, 0.013eq, 0.0054mmol) were dissolved in dry pyridine (500 ml) at ambient temperature under an argon atmosphere and with mechanical stirring. tert-Butyldiphenylchlorosilane 10 (125.8g, 119.0mL, 1.1eq, 0.458mmol) was added in one The reaction was stirred for 16 h at ambient TLC (Rf 0.22, ethyl acetate) indicated a temperature. complete reaction. The solution was concentrated under reduced pressure to a thick oil. This was partitioned 15 between dichloromethane (1 L) and saturated sodium bicarbonate (2x1 L) and brine (1 L). The organic layer was dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure to a thick oil. The oil was dissolved in a 1:1 mixture of ethyl acetate and ethyl ether (600mL) and the 20 solution was cooled to

-10°C. The resulting crystalline product was collected by filtration, washed with ethyl ether (3x200 mL) and dried (40°C, 1mm Hg, 24 h) to 149g (74.8%) of white solid. TLC and NMR were consistent with pure product.

5'-O-tert-Butyldiphenylsily1-2'-O-(2-hydroxyethyl)-5methyluridine

In a 2 L stainless steel, unstirred pressure reactor was added borane in tetrahydrofuran (1.0 M, 2.0 eq, 622 mL). In the fume hood and with manual stirring, ethylene

glycol (350 mL, excess) was added cautiously at first until the evolution of hydrogen gas subsided. 5'-O-tert-Butyldiphenylsilyl-02-2'-anhydro-5-methyluridine (149 g, 0.311 mol) and sodium bicarbonate (0.074 q, 0.003 eq) were 5 added with manual stirring. The reactor was sealed and heated in an oil bath until an internal temperature of 160 °C was reached and then maintained for 16 h (pressure < 100 The reaction vessel was cooled to ambient and TLC (Rf 0.67 for desired product and Rf 0.82 for opened. 10 ara-T side product, ethyl acetate) indicated about 70% conversion to the product. In order to avoid additional side product formation, the reaction was stopped, concentrated under reduced pressure (10 to 1mm Hg) in a warm water bath (40-100°C) with the more extreme conditions [Alternatively, once 15 used to remove the ethylene glycol. the low boiling solvent is gone, the remaining solution can be partitioned between ethyl acetate and water. product will be in the organic phase.] The residue was purified by column chromatography (2kg silica gel, ethyl 20 acetate-hexanes gradient 1:1 to 4:1). The appropriate fractions were combined, stripped and dried to product as a white crisp foam (84q, 50%), contaminated starting material (17.4q) and pure reusable starting material 20g. The yield based on starting material less pure recovered starting 25 material was 58%. TLC and NMR were consistent with 99% pure product.

2'-O-([2-phthalimidoxy)ethyl]-5'-t-butyldiphenylsilyl-5-methyluridine

5'-O-tert-Butyldiphenylsilyl-2'-O-(2-hydroxyethyl)-5-30 methyluridine (20g, 36.98mmol) was mixed with triphenylphosphine (11.63g, 44.36mmol) and N-hydroxyphthalimide (7.24g, 44.36mmol). It was then dried over P_2O_5 under high vacuum for two days at 40°C. The reaction mixture was flushed with argon and dry THF

- 5 (369.8mL, Aldrich, sure seal bottle) was added to get a clear solution. Diethyl-azodicarboxylate (6.98mL, 44.36mmol) was added dropwise to the reaction mixture. The rate of addition is maintained such that resulting deep red coloration is just discharged before adding the next drop.
- 10 After the addition was complete, the reaction was stirred for 4 hrs. By that time TLC showed the completion of the reaction (ethylacetate:hexane, 60:40). The solvent was evaporated in vacuum. Residue obtained was placed on a flash column and eluted with ethyl acetate:hexane (60:40),
- to get 2'-O-([2-phthalimidoxy)ethyl]-5'-t-butyldiphenylsilyl-5-methyluridine as white foam (21.819 g, 86%).

5'-O-tert-butyldiphenylsilyl-2'-O-[(2-formadoximinooxy)ethyl]-5-methyluridine

2'-O-([2-phthalimidoxy)ethyl]-5'-t-butyldiphenylsilyl-5-methyluridine (3.1g, 4.5mmol) was dissolved in dry CH₂Cl₂ (4.5mL) and methylhydrazine (300mL, 4.64mmol) was added dropwise at -10°C to 0°C. After 1 h the mixture was filtered, the filtrate was washed with ice cold CH₂Cl₂ and the combined organic phase was washed with water, brine and dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄. The solution was concentrated to get 2'-O-(aminooxyethyl) thymidine, which was then dissolved in MeOH (67.5mL). To this formaldehyde (20% aqueous solution, w/w, 1.1 eq.) was added and the resulting mixture was strirred for 1 h. Solvent was removed under

vacuum; residue chromatographed to get 5'-0-tert-butyldiphenylsilyl-2'-0-[(2-formadoximinooxy) ethyl]-5-methyluridine as white foam (1.95 g, 78%).

5'-O-tert-Butyldiphenylsilyl-2'-O-[N,N-dimethylaminooxyethyl]-5-methyluridine

5'-O-tert-butyldiphenylsilyl-2'-O-[(2formadoximinooxy)ethyl]-5-methyluridine (1.77g, 3.12mmol) was dissolved in a solution of 1M pyridinium ptoluenesulfonate (PPTS) in dry MeOH (30.6mL). Sodium 10 cyanoborohydride (0.39g, 6.13mmol) was added to this solution at 10°C under inert atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred for 10 minutes at 10°C. After that the reaction vessel was removed from the ice bath and stirred at room temperature for 2 h, the reaction monitored by TLC 15 (5% MeOH in CH₂Cl₂). Aqueous NaHCO₃ solution (5%, 10mL) was added and extracted with ethyl acetate (2x20mL). Ethyl acetate phase was dried over anhydrous Na2SO4, evaporated to Residue was dissolved in a solution of 1M PPTS in MeOH (30.6mL). Formaldehyde (20% w/w, 30mL, 3.37mmol) was 20 added and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 minutes. Reaction mixture cooled to 10°C in an ice bath, sodium cyanoborohydride (0.39g, 6.13mmol) was added and reaction mixture stirred at 10°C for 10 minutes. After 10 minutes, the reaction mixture was 25 removed from the ice bath and stirred at room temperature for 2 hrs. To the reaction mixture 5% NaHCO₃ (25mL) solution was added and extracted with ethyl acetate (2x25mL). Ethyl acetate layer was dried over anhydrous $\mathrm{Na_2SO_4}$ and evaporated to dryness . The residue obtained was 30 purified by flash column chromatography and eluted with 5%

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MeOH in CH₂Cl₂ to get 5'-O-tert-butyldiphenylsilyl-2'-O-[N,N-dimethylaminooxyethyl]-5-methyluridine as a white foam (14.6q, 80%).

2'-O-(dimethylaminooxyethyl)-5-methyluridine

Triethylamine trihydrofluoride (3.91mL, 24.0mmol) was dissolved in dry THF and triethylamine (1.67mL, 12mmol, dry, kept over KOH). This mixture of triethylamine-2HF was then added to 5'-O-tert-butyldiphenylsilyl-2'-O-[N,Ndimethylaminooxyethyl]-5-methyluridine (1.40g, 2.4mmol) and 10 stirred at room temperature for 24 hrs. Reaction was monitored by TLC (5% MeOH in CH_2Cl_2). Solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue placed on a flash column and eluted with 10% MeOH in CH2Cl2 to get 2'-O-(dimethylaminooxyethyl)-5-methyluridine (766mg, 92.5%).

5'-O-DMT-2'-O-(dimethylaminooxyethyl)-5-methyluridine

2'-O-(dimethylaminooxyethyl)-5-methyluridine (750mg, 2.17mmol) was dried over P2O5 under high vacuum overnight at 40°C. It was then co-evaporated with anhydrous pyridine The residue obtained was dissolved in pyridine 20 (11mL) under argon atmosphere. 4-dimethylaminopyridine (26.5mg, 2.60mmol), 4,4'-dimethoxytrityl chloride (880mg, 2.60mmol) was added to the mixture and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature until all of the starting material disappeared. Pyridine was removed under vacuum 25 and the residue chromatographed and eluted with 10% MeOH in CH2Cl2 (containing a few drops of pyridine) to get 5'-O-DMT-2'-O-(dimethylamino-oxyethyl)-5-methyluridine (1.13g, 80%).

5'-O-DMT-2'-O-(2-N,N-dimethylaminooxyethyl)-5-methyluridine-3'-[(2-cyanoethyl)-N,N-diisopropylphosphoramidite]

- 5'-O-DMT-2'-O-(dimethylaminooxyethyl)-5-methyluridine
 5 (1.08g, 1.67mmol) was co-evaporated with toluene (20mL).
 To the residue N,N-diisopropylamine tetrazonide (0.29g, 1.67mmol) was added and dried over P₂O₅ under high vacuum overnight at 40°C. Then the reaction mixture was dissolved in anhydrous acetonitrile (8.4mL) and 2-cyanoethyl10 N,N,N¹,N¹-tetraisopropylphosphoramidite (2.12mL, 6.08mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at ambient temperature for 4 hrs under inert atmosphere. The progress of the reaction was monitored by TLC (hexane:ethyl acetate 1:1). The solvent was evaporated, then the residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate (70mL) and washed with 5% aqueous NaHCO₃ (40mL). Ethyl acetate layer was dried over
- 2'-O-(2-N,N-dimethylaminooxyethyl)-5-methyluridine-3'-[(2-20 cyanoethyl)-N,N-diisopropylphosphoramidite] as a foam (1.04q, 74.9%).

anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and concentrated. Residue obtained was

chromatographed (ethyl acetate as eluent) to get 5'-O-DMT-

2'-(Aminooxyethoxy) nucleoside amidites

2'-(Aminooxyethoxy) nucleoside amidites [also known in the art as 2'-O-(aminooxyethyl) nucleoside amidites] are prepared as described in the following paragraphs. Adenosine, cytidine and thymidine nucleoside amidites are prepared similarly. N2-isobutyryl-6-0-diphenylcarbamoyl-2'-0-(2-ethylacetyl)-5'-0-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)guanosine-3'[(2-cyanoethyl)-N,N-diisopropylphosphoramidite]

obtained by selective 2'-O-alkylation of diaminopurine riboside. Multigram quantities of diaminopurine riboside may be purchased from Schering AG (Berlin) to provide 2'-O-(2-ethylacetyl) diaminopurine riboside along with a minor amount of the 3'-O-isomer. 2'-O-(2-ethylacetyl)

The 2'-O-aminooxyethyl quanosine analog may be

- 10 diaminopurine riboside may be resolved and converted to 2'-O-(2-ethylacetyl)guanosine by treatment with adenosine deaminase. (McGee, D. P. C., Cook, P. D., Guinosso, C. J., WO 94/02501 A1 940203.) Standard protection procedures should afford 2'-O-(2-ethylacetyl)-5'-O-(4,4'-
- dimethoxytrityl)guanosine and 2-N-isobutyryl-6-0-diphenylcarbamoyl-2'-O-(2-ethylacetyl)-5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)guanosine which may be reduced to provide 2-N-isobutyryl-6-O-diphenylcarbamoyl-2'-O-(2-ethylacetyl)-5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)guanosine. As before the
- hydroxyl group may be displaced by N-hydroxyphthalimide via a Mitsunobu reaction, and the protected nucleoside may phosphitylated as usual to yield 2-N-isobutyryl-6-0-diphenylcarbamoyl-2'-O-(2-ethylacetyl)-5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)guanosine-3'-[(2-cyanoethyl)-N,N-
- 25 diisopropylphosphoramidite].

2'-dimethylaminoethoxyethoxy (2'-DMAEOE) nucleoside amidites

2'-dimethylaminoethoxyethoxy nucleoside amidites (also known in the art as 2'-O-dimethylaminoethoxyethyl, i.e., 30 2'-O-CH₂-O-CH₂-N(CH₂)₂, or 2'-DMAEOE nucleoside amidites) are

white solid.

prepared as follows. Other nucleoside amidites are prepared similarly.

2'-O-[2(2-N, N-dimethylaminoethoxy)ethyl]-5-methyl uridine

2[2-(Dimethylamino)ethoxy]ethanol (Aldrich, 6.66 g, 50 5 mmol) is slowly added to a solution of borane in tetrahydrofuran (1 M, 10 mL, 10 mmol) with stirring in a 100 mL bomb. Hydrogen gas evolves as the solid dissolves. 02-,2'anhydro-5-methyluridine (1.2 g, 5 mmol), and sodium bicarbonate (2.5 mg) are added and the bomb is sealed, 10 placed in an oil bath and heated to 155°C for 26 hours. The bomb is cooled to room temperature and opened. crude solution is concentrated and the residue partitioned between water (200 mL) and hexanes (200 mL). phenol is extracted into the hexane layer. The aqueous 15 layer is extracted with ethyl acetate (3x200 mL) and the combined organic layers are washed once with water, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated. residue is columned on silica gel using methanol/methylene chloride 1:20 (which has 2% triethylamine) as the eluent. 20 As the column fractions are concentrated a colorless solid forms which is collected to give the title compound as a

5'-O-dimethoxytrityl-2'-O-[2(2-N,N-dimethylaminoethoxy) ethyl)]-5-methyl uridine

To 0.5 g (1.3 mmol) of 2'-O-[2(2-N,N-dimethylamino-ethoxy)ethyl)]-5-methyl uridine in anhydrous pyridine (8 mL), triethylamine (0.36 mL) and dimethoxytrityl chloride (DMT-Cl, 0.87 g, 2 eq.) are added and stirred for 1 hour. The reaction mixture is poured into water (200 mL) and

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extracted with CH_2Cl_2 (2x200 mL). The combined CH_2Cl_2 layers are washed with saturated NaHCO₃ solution, followed by saturated NaCl solution and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. Evaporation of the solvent followed by silica gel chromatography using MeOH: CH_2Cl_2 : Et_3N (20:1, v/v, with 1% triethylamine) gives the title compound.

5'-O-Dimethoxytrity1-2'-O-[2(2-N,N-dimethylaminoethoxy)ethyl)]-5-methyl uridine-3'-O-(cyanoethyl-N,N-diisopropyl)phosphoramidite

Diisopropylaminotetrazolide (0.6 g) and 2-cyanoethoxy-N,N-diisopropyl phosphoramidite (1.1 mL, 2 eq.) are added to a solution of 5'-O-dimethoxytrityl-2'-O-[2(2-N,N-dimethylaminoethoxy)ethyl)]-5-methyluridine (2.17 g, 3 mmol) dissolved in $\mathrm{CH_2Cl_2}$ (20 mL) under an atmosphere of argon. The reaction mixture is stirred overnight and the solvent evaporated. The resulting residue is purified by silica gel flash column chromatography with ethyl acetate as the eluent to give the title compound.

Example 2

20 Oligonucleotide synthesis

Unsubstituted and substituted phosphodiester (P=O) oligonucleotides are synthesized on an automated DNA synthesizer (Applied Biosystems model 380B) using standard phosphoramidite chemistry with oxidation by iodine.

Phosphorothioates (P=S) are synthesized as for the phosphodiester oligonucleotides except the standard oxidation bottle was replaced by 0.2 M solution of 3H-1,2-benzodithiole-3-one 1,1-dioxide in acetonitrile for the stepwise thiation of the phosphite linkages. The thiation

25

wait step was increased to 68 sec and was followed by the capping step. After cleavage from the CPG column and deblocking in concentrated ammonium hydroxide at 55°C (18 h), the oligonucleotides were purified by precipitating twice with 2.5 volumes of ethanol from a 0.5 M NaCl solution. Phosphinate oligonucleotides are prepared as described in U.S. Patent 5,508,270, herein incorporated by reference.

Alkyl phosphonate oligonucleotides are prepared as described in U.S. Patent 4,469,863, herein incorporated by reference.

3'-Deoxy-3'-methylene phosphonate oligonucleotides are prepared as described in U.S. Patents 5,610,289 or 5,625,050, herein incorporated by reference.

Phosphoramidite oligonucleotides are prepared as described in U.S. Patent, 5,256,775 or U.S. Patent 5,366,878, herein incorporated by reference.

Alkylphosphonothioate oligonucleotides are prepared as described in published PCT applications PCT/US94/00902 and PCT/US93/06976 (published as WO 94/17093 and WO 94/02499, respectively), herein incorporated by reference.

3'-Deoxy-3'-amino phosphoramidate oligonucleotides are prepared as described in U.S. Patent 5,476,925, herein incorporated by reference.

Phosphotriester oligonucleotides are prepared as described in U.S. Patent 5,023,243, herein incorporated by reference.

Borano phosphate oligonucleotides are prepared as described in U.S. Patents 5,130,302 and 5,177,198, both herein incorporated by reference.

Example 3

Oligonucleoside Synthesis

Methylenemethylimino linked oligonucleosides, also identified as MMI linked oligonucleosides, methylenedi5 methylhydrazo linked oligonucleosides, also identified as MDH linked oligonucleosides, and methylenecarbonylamino linked oligonucleosides, also identified as amide-3 linked oligonucleosides, and methyleneaminocarbonyl linked oligonucleosides, also identified as amide-4 linked oligonucleosides, also identified as amide-4 linked oligonucleosides, as well as mixed backbone compounds having, for instance, alternating MMI and P=O or P=S linkages are prepared as described in U.S. Patents 5,378,825, 5,386,023, 5,489,677, 5,602,240 and 5,610,289, all of which are herein incorporated by reference.

Formacetal and thioformacetal linked oligonucleosides are prepared as described in U.S. Patents 5,264,562 and 5,264,564, herein incorporated by reference.

Ethylene oxide linked oligonucleosides are prepared as described in U.S. Patent 5,223,618, herein incorporated by reference.

Example 4

PNA Synthesis

Peptide nucleic acids (PNAs) are prepared in accordance with any of the various procedures referred to in Peptide Nucleic Acids (PNA): Synthesis, Properties and Potential Applications, Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry, 1996, 4, 5-23. They may also be prepared in accordance with U.S. Patents 5,539,082, 5,700,922, and 5,719,262, herein incorporated by reference.

Example 5

Synthesis of Chimeric Oligonucleotides

Chimeric oligonucleotides, oligonucleosides or mixed oligonucleotides/oligonucleosides of the invention can be of several different types. These include a first type wherein the "gap" segment of linked nucleosides is positioned between 5' and 3' "wing" segments of linked nucleosides and a second "open end" type wherein the "gap" segment is located at either the 3' or the 5' terminus of the oligomeric compound. Oligonucleotides of the first type are also known in the art as "gapmers" or gapped oligonucleotides. Oligonucleotides of the second type are also known in the art as "hemimers" or "wingmers".

[2'-O-Me] -- [2'-deoxy] -- [2'-O-Me] Chimeric Phosphorothioate Oligonucleotides

Chimeric oligonucleotides having 2'-O-alkyl

phosphorothioate and 2'-deoxy phosphorothioate oligonucleotide segments are synthesized using an Applied
Biosystems automated DNA synthesizer Model 380B, as above.

Oligonucleotides are synthesized using the automated
synthesizer and 2'-deoxy-5'-dimethoxytrityl-3'-O-phosphoramidite for the DNA portion and 5'-dimethoxytrityl-2'-Omethyl-3'-O-phosphoramidite for 5' and 3' wings. The
standard synthesis cycle is modified by increasing the wait
step after the delivery of tetrazole and base to 600 s
repeated four times for RNA and twice for 2'-O-methyl. The
fully protected oligonucleotide is cleaved from the support
and the phosphate group is deprotected in 3:1
ammonia/ethanol at room temperature overnight then
lyophilized to dryness. Treatment in methanolic ammonia
for 24 hrs at room temperature is then done to deprotect

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all bases and sample was again lyophilized to dryness. pellet is resuspended in 1M TBAF in THF for 24 hrs at room temperature to deprotect the 2' positions. The reaction is then quenched with 1M TEAA and the sample is then reduced 5 to 1/2 volume by rotovac before being desalted on a G25 size exclusion column. The oligo recovered is then analyzed spectrophotometrically for yield and for purity by capillary electrophoresis and by mass spectrometry.

[2'-O-(2-Methoxyethyl)]--[2'-deoxy]--[2'-O-(Methoxyethyl)] Chimeric Phosphorothicate Oligonucleotides

[2'-O-(2-methoxyethyl)]--[2'-deoxy]--[-2'-O-(methoxyethyl)] chimeric phosphorothioate oligonucleotides were prepared as per the procedure above for the 2'-O-methyl 15 chimeric oligonucleotide, with the substitution of 2'-0-(methoxyethyl) amidites for the 2'-O-methyl amidites.

[2'-O-(2-Methoxyethyl)Phosphodiester]--[2'-deoxy Phosphorothioate] -- [2'-O-(2-Methoxyethyl) Phosphodiester] Chimeric Oligonucleotides

[2'-O-(2-methoxyethyl phosphodiester]--[2'-deoxy phosphorothioate] -- [2'-0-(methoxyethyl) phosphodiester] chimeric oligonucleotides are prepared as per the above procedure for the 2'-O-methyl chimeric oligonucleotide with the substitution of 2'-O-(methoxyethyl) amidites for the 25 2'-O-methyl amidites, oxidization with iodine to generate the phosphodiester internucleotide linkages within the wing portions of the chimeric structures and sulfurization utilizing 3,H-1,2 benzodithiole-3-one 1,1 dioxide (Beaucage Reagent) to generate the phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages for the center gap.

Other chimeric oligonucleotides, chimeric oligonucleosides sides and mixed chimeric oligonucleotides/oligonucleosides are synthesized according to United States patent 5,623,065, herein incorporated by reference.

Example 6

Oligonucleotide Isolation

After cleavage from the controlled pore glass column 10 (Applied Biosystems) and deblocking in concentrated ammonium hydroxide at 55°C for 18 hours, the oligonucleotides or oligonucleosides are purified by precipitation twice out of 0.5 M NaCl with 2.5 volumes Synthesized oligonucleotides were analyzed by 15 polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis on denaturing gels and judged to be at least 85% full length material. relative amounts of phosphorothioate and phosphodiester linkages obtained in synthesis were periodically checked by ³¹P nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, and for some 20 studies oligonucleotides were purified by HPLC, as described by Chiang et al., J. Biol. Chem. 1991, 266, 18162-18171. Results obtained with HPLC-purified material were similar to those obtained with non-HPLC purified material.

25 Example 7

Oligonucleotide Synthesis - 96 Well Plate Format

Oligonucleotides were synthesized via solid phase P(III) phosphoramidite chemistry on an automated synthesizer capable of assembling 96 sequences

simultaneously in a standard 96 well format.

Phosphodiester internucleotide linkages were afforded by oxidation with aqueous iodine. Phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages were generated by sulfurization

5 utilizing 3,H-1,2 benzodithiole-3-one 1,1 dioxide (Beaucage Reagent) in anhydrous acetonitrile. Standard base-protected beta-cyanoethyldiisopropyl phosphoramidites were purchased from commercial vendors (e.g. PE-Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, or Pharmacia, Piscataway, NJ).

10 Non-standard nucleosides are synthesized as per known literature or patented methods. They are utilized as base protected beta-cyanoethyldiisopropyl phosphoramidites.

Oligonucleotides were cleaved from support and deprotected with concentrated NH_4OH at elevated temperature (55-60°C) for 12-16 hours and the released product then dried in vacuo. The dried product was then re-suspended in sterile water to afford a master plate from which all analytical and test plate samples are then diluted utilizing robotic pipettors.

20 Example 8

Oligonucleotide Analysis - 96 Well Plate Format

The concentration of oligonucleotide in each well was assessed by dilution of samples and UV absorption spectroscopy. The full-length integrity of the individual products was evaluated by capillary electrophoresis (CE) in either the 96 well format (Beckman P/ACE™ MDQ) or, for individually prepared samples, on a commercial CE apparatus (e.g., Beckman P/ACE™ 5000, ABI 270). Base and backbone composition was confirmed by mass analysis of the compounds utilizing electrospray-mass spectroscopy. All assay test

plates were diluted from the master plate using single and multi-channel robotic pipettors. Plates were judged to be acceptable if at least 85% of the compounds on the plate were at least 85% full length.

5 Example 9

Cell culture and oligonucleotide treatment

The effect of antisense compounds on target nucleic acid expression can be tested in any of a variety of cell types provided that the target nucleic acid is present at 10 measurable levels. This can be routinely determined using, for example, PCR or Northern blot analysis. The following four cell types are provided for illustrative purposes, but other cell types can be routinely used.

T-24 cells:

The transitional cell bladder carcinoma cell line T-24 was obtained from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) (Manassas, VA). T-24 cells were routinely cultured in complete McCoy's 5A basal media (Gibco/Life Technologies, Gaithersburg, MD) supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum (Gibco/Life Technologies, Gaithersburg, MD), penicillin 100 units per mL, and streptomycin 100 micrograms per mL (Gibco/Life Technologies, Gaithersburg, MD). Cells were routinely passaged by trypsinization and dilution when they reached 90% confluence. Cells were seeded into 96-well plates (Falcon-Primaria #3872) at a density of 7000 cells/well for use in RT-PCR analysis.

For Northern blotting or other analysis, cells may be seeded onto 100 mm or other standard tissue culture plates

and treated similarly, using appropriate volumes of medium and oligonucleotide.

A549 cells:

The human lung carcinoma cell line A549 was obtained

from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) (Manassas,

VA). A549 cells were routinely cultured in DMEM basal

media (Gibco/Life Technologies, Gaithersburg, MD)

supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum (Gibco/Life

Technologies, Gaithersburg, MD), penicillin 100 units per

mL, and streptomycin 100 micrograms per mL (Gibco/Life

Technologies, Gaithersburg, MD). Cells were routinely

passaged by trypsinization and dilution when they reached

90% confluence.

NHDF cells:

15 Human neonatal dermal fibroblast (NHDF) were obtained from the Clonetics Corporation (Walkersville MD). NHDFs were routinely maintained in Fibroblast Growth Medium (Clonetics Corporation, Walkersville MD) supplemented as recommended by the supplier. Cells were maintained for up to 10 passages as recommended by the supplier.

HEK cells:

Human embryonic keratinocytes (HEK) were obtained from the Clonetics Corporation (Walkersville MD). HEKs were routinely maintained in Keratinocyte Growth Medium

25 (Clonetics Corporation, Walkersville MD) formulated as recommended by the supplier. Cells were routinely maintained for up to 10 passages as recommended by the supplier.

AML12 cells:

Alpha mouse liver 12 cells (AML12) were obtained from
American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) (Manassas, VA).

AML12 cells were routinely cultured in D-MEM/F-12 media

5 (Gibco/Life Technologies, Gaithersburg, MD) supplemented
with Insulin/transferrin/selenium supplement (Gibco/Life
Technologies, Gaithersburg, MD), 40 ng/ml dexamethasone
(Sigma) penicillin-streptomycin (Gibco/Life Technologies,
Gaithersburg, MD) and 10% fetal bovine serum (Gibco/Life

Technologies, Gaithersburg, MD). Cells were routinely
passaged by trypsinization and dilution when they reached
80% confluence.

Treatment with antisense compounds:

When cells reached 80% confluency, they were treated

with oligonucleotide. For cells grown in 96-well plates,

wells were washed once with 200 µL OPTI-MEM™-1 reduced
serum medium (Gibco BRL) and then treated with 130 µL of

OPTI-MEM™-1 containing 3.75 µg/mL LIPOFECTIN™ (Gibco BRL)

and the desired oligonucleotide at a final concentration of

150 nM. After 4 hours of treatment, the medium was

replaced with fresh medium. Cells were harvested 16 hours

after oligonucleotide treatment.

Example 10

Analysis of oligonucleotide inhibition of PI3K p85 expression

Antisense modulation of PI3K p85 expression can be assayed in a variety of ways known in the art. For example, PI3K p85 mRNA levels can be quantitated by, e.q.,

Northern blot analysis, competitive polymerase chain reaction (PCR), or real-time PCR (RT-PCR). Real-time quantitative PCR is presently preferred. RNA analysis can be performed on total cellular RNA or poly(A) + mRNA.

- Methods of RNA isolation are taught in, for example,
 Ausubel, F.M. et al., Current Protocols in Molecular
 Biology, Volume 1, pp. 4.1.1-4.2.9 and 4.5.1-4.5.3, John
 Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1993. Northern blot analysis is
 routine in the art and is taught in, for example, Ausubel,
- 10 F.M. et al., Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, Volume 1, pp. 4.2.1-4.2.9, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1996. Realtime quantitative (PCR) can be conveniently accomplished using the commercially available ABI PRISM™ 7700 Sequence Detection System, available from PE-Applied Biosystems,
- 15 Foster City, CA and used according to manufacturer's instructions. Other methods of PCR are also known in the art.

PI3K p85 protein levels can be quantitated in a variety of ways well known in the art, such as immunoprecipitation, Western blot analysis (immunoblotting), ELISA or fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS). Antibodies directed to PI3K p85 can be identified and obtained from a variety of sources, such as the MSRS catalog of antibodies (Aerie Corporation,

- 25 Birmingham, MI), or can be prepared via conventional antibody generation methods. Methods for preparation of polyclonal antisera are taught in, for example, Ausubel, F.M. et al., Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, Volume 2, pp. 11.12.1-11.12.9, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1997.
- Preparation of monoclonal antibodies is taught in, for example, Ausubel, F.M. et al., Current Protocols in

Molecular Biology, Volume 2, pp. 11.4.1-11.11.5, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1997.

Immunoprecipitation methods are standard in the art and can be found at, for example, Ausubel, F.M. et al.,

5 Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, Volume 2, pp.
10.16.1-10.16.11, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1998. Western blot (immunoblot) analysis is standard in the art and can be found at, for example, Ausubel, F.M. et al., Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, Volume 2, pp. 10.8.110 10.8.21, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1997. Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays (ELISA) are standard in the art and can be found at, for example, Ausubel, F.M. et al., Current

Protocols in Molecular Biology, Volume 2, pp. 11.2.1-

11.2.22, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1991.

15 Example 11

Poly(A) + mRNA isolation

Poly(A)+ mRNA was isolated according to Miura et al., Clin. Chem., 1996, 42, 1758-1764. Other methods for poly(A)+ mRNA isolation are taught in, for example,

- Ausubel, F.M. et al., Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, Volume 1, pp. 4.5.1-4.5.3, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1993. Briefly, for cells grown on 96-well plates, growth medium was removed from the cells and each well was washed with 200 μ L cold PBS. 60 μ L lysis buffer (10 mM
- Tris-HCl, pH 7.6, 1 mM EDTA, 0.5 M NaCl, 0.5% NP-40, 20 mM vanadyl-ribonucleoside complex) was added to each well, the plate was gently agitated and then incubated at room temperature for five minutes. 55 μ L of lysate was transferred to Oligo d(T) coated 96-well plates (AGCT Inc.,

Irvine CA). Plates were incubated for 60 minutes at room temperature, washed 3 times with 200 μL of wash buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.6, 1 mM EDTA, 0.3 M NaCl). After the final wash, the plate was blotted on paper towels to remove excess wash buffer and then air-dried for 5 minutes. 60 μL of elution buffer (5 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.6), preheated to 70°C was added to each well, the plate was incubated on a 90°C hot plate for 5 minutes, and the eluate was then transferred to a fresh 96-well plate.

Cells grown on 100 mm or other standard plates may be treated similarly, using appropriate volumes of all solutions.

Example 12

Total RNA Isolation

Total mRNA was isolated using an RNEASY 96™ kit and 15 buffers purchased from Qiagen Inc. (Valencia CA) following the manufacturer's recommended procedures. Briefly, for cells grown on 96-well plates, growth medium was removed from the cells and each well was washed with 200 $\mu \rm L$ cold 20 PBS. 100 μL Buffer RLT was added to each well and the plate vigorously agitated for 20 seconds. 100 μL of 70% ethanol was then added to each well and the contents mixed by pipetting three times up and down. The samples were then transferred to the RNEASY $96^{\text{\tiny M}}$ well plate attached to a 25 QIAVAC $^{\text{\tiny{IM}}}$ manifold fitted with a waste collection tray and attached to a vacuum source. Vacuum was applied for 15 seconds. 1 mL of Buffer RW1 was added to each well of the RNEASY 96^{M} plate and the vacuum again applied for 15 seconds. 1 mL of Buffer RPE was then added to each well of 30 the RNEASY $96^{\text{\tiny M}}$ plate and the vacuum applied for a period of

15 seconds. The Buffer RPE wash was then repeated and the vacuum was applied for an additional 10 minutes. The plate was then removed from the QIAVAC $^{\text{\tiny{IM}}}$ manifold and blotted dry on paper towels. The plate was then re-attached to the 5 QIAVAC $^{\mathsf{m}}$ manifold fitted with a collection tube rack containing 1.2 mL collection tubes. RNA was then eluted by pipetting 60 μ L water into each well, incubating 1 minute, and then applying the vacuum for 30 seconds. The elution step was repeated with an additional 60 $\mu {
m L}$ water.

The repetitive pipetting and elution steps may be automated using a QIAGEN Bio-Robot 9604 (Qiagen, Inc., Valencia CA). Essentially after lysing of the cells on the culture plate, the plate is transferred to the robot deck where the pipetting, DNase treatment and elution steps are 15 carried out.

Example 13

Real-time Quantitative PCR Analysis of PI3K p85 mRNA Levels

Quantitation of PI3K p85 mRNA levels was determined by real-time quantitative PCR using the ABI PRISM™ 7700 20 Sequence Detection System (PE-Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA) according to manufacturer's instructions. is a closed-tube, non-gel-based, fluorescence detection system which allows high-throughput quantitation of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) products in real-time. 25 opposed to standard PCR, in which amplification products are quantitated after the PCR is completed, products in real-time quantitative PCR are quantitated as they accumulate. This is accomplished by including in the PCR reaction an oligonucleotide probe that anneals specifically 30 between the forward and reverse PCR primers, and contains

two fluorescent dyes. A reporter dye (e.g., JOE or FAM, obtained from either Operon Technologies Inc., Alameda, CA or PE-Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA) is attached to the 5' end of the probe and a quencher dye (e.g., TAMRA, 5 obtained from either Operon Technologies Inc., Alameda, CA or PE-Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA) is attached to the 3' end of the probe. When the probe and dyes are intact, reporter dye emission is quenched by the proximity of the 3' quencher dye. During amplification, annealing of 10 the probe to the target sequence creates a substrate that can be cleaved by the 5'-exonuclease activity of Taq polymerase. During the extension phase of the PCR amplification cycle, cleavage of the probe by Taq polymerase releases the reporter dye from the remainder of 15 the probe (and hence from the quencher moiety) and a sequence-specific fluorescent signal is generated. With each cycle, additional reporter dye molecules are cleaved from their respective probes, and the fluorescence intensity is monitored at regular intervals by laser optics 20 built into the ABI PRISM™ 7700 Sequence Detection System. In each assay, a series of parallel reactions containing serial dilutions of mRNA from untreated control samples generates a standard curve that is used to quantitate the percent inhibition after antisense oligonucleotide 25 treatment of test samples.

PCR reagents were obtained from PE-Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA. RT-PCR reactions were carried out by adding 25 μ L PCR cocktail (1x TAQMAN[™] buffer A, 5.5 mM MgCl₂, 300 μ M each of dATP, dCTP and dGTP, 600 μ M of dUTP, 100 nM each of forward primer, reverse primer, and probe, 20 Units RNAse inhibitor, 1.25 Units AMPLITAQ GOLD[™], and

12.5 Units MuLV reverse transcriptase) to 96 well plates containing 25 μL poly(A) mRNA solution. The RT reaction was carried out by incubation for 30 minutes at 48°C. Following a 10 minute incubation at 95°C to activate the 5 AMPLITAQ GOLD™, 40 cycles of a two-step PCR protocol were carried out: 95°C for 15 seconds (denaturation) followed by 60°C for 1.5 minutes (annealing/extension). PI3K p85 probes and primers were designed to hybridize to the human PI3K p85 sequence, using published sequence information (GenBank accession number M61906, incorporated herein as SEQ ID NO:1).

For PI3K p85 the PCR primers were:

forward primer: AGCAACCTGGCAGAATTACGA (SEQ ID NO: 2)

reverse primer: CAAAACGTGCACATCGATCAT (SEQ ID NO: 3) and

15 the PCR probe was: FAM-TTCTTGATTGTGATACACCCTCCGTGGACT-TAMRA

(SEQ ID NO: 4) where FAM (PE-Applied Biosystems, Foster

City, CA) is the fluorescent reporter dye) and TAMRA (PE-Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA) is the quencher dye.

For GAPDH the PCR primers were:

forward primer: GAAGGTGAAGGTCGGAGTC (SEQ ID NO: 5)
reverse primer: GAAGATGGTGATGGGATTTC (SEQ ID NO: 6) and the
PCR probe was: 5' JOE-CAAGCTTCCCGTTCTCAGCC- TAMRA 3' (SEQ
ID NO: 7) where JOE (PE-Applied Biosystems, Foster City,
CA) is the fluorescent reporter dye) and TAMRA (PE-Applied
Biosystems, Foster City, CA) is the quencher dye.

Example 14

Northern blot analysis of PI3K p85 mRNA levels

Eighteen hours after antisense treatment, cell
monolayers were washed twice with cold PBS and lysed in 1

30 mL RNAZOL™ (TEL-TEST "B" Inc., Friendswood, TX). Total RNA

was prepared following manufacturer's recommended protocols. Twenty micrograms of total RNA was fractionated by electrophoresis through 1.2% agarose gels containing 1.1% formaldehyde using a MOPS buffer system (AMRESCO, Inc. 5 Solon, OH). RNA was transferred from the gel to HYBOND™-N+nylon membranes (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, Piscataway, NJ) by overnight capillary transfer using a Northern/Southern Transfer buffer system (TEL-TEST "B" Inc., Friendswood, TX). RNA transfer was confirmed by UV visualization. Membranes were fixed by UV cross-linking using a STRATALINKER™ UV Crosslinker 2400 (Stratagene, Inc, La Jolla, CA).

Membranes were probed using QUICKHYB™ hybridization solution (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA) using manufacturer's recommendations for stringent conditions with a PI3K p85 specific probe prepared by PCR using the forward primer AGCAACCTGGCAGAATTACGA (SEQ ID NO: 2) and the reverse primer CAAAACGTGCACATCGATCAT (SEQ ID NO: 3). To normalize for variations in loading and transfer efficiency membranes were stripped and probed for glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH) RNA (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA). Hybridized membranes were visualized and quantitated using a PHOSPHORIMAGER™ and IMAGEQUANT™ Software V3.3 (Molecular Dynamics, Sunnyvale, CA). Data was normalized to GAPDH

Example 15

Antisense inhibition of PI3K p85 expressionphosphorothicate oligodeoxynucleotides

In accordance with the present invention, a series of oligonucleotides were designed to target different regions

of the human PI3K p85 RNA, using published sequences
(GenBank accession number M61906, incorporated herein as
SEQ ID NO: 1). The oligonucleotides are shown in Table 1.
Target sites are indicated by nucleotide numbers, as given
in the sequence source reference (Genbank accession no.
M61906), to which the oligonucleotide binds. All compounds
in Table 1 are oligodeoxynucleotides with phosphorothicate
backbones (internucleoside linkages) throughout. The
compounds were analyzed for effect on PI3K p85 mRNA levels
by quantitative real-time PCR as described in other
examples herein. Data are averages from two experiments.
If present, "N.D." indicates "no data".

Table 1

Inhibition of PI3K p85 mRNA levels by phosphorothicate oligodeoxynucleotides

	ISIS#	REGION	TARGET SITE	SEQUENCE	% Inhibition	SEQ ID
-	27977	Coding	88	atcttcttctctttcctt	0	8
	27978	Coding	168	gcttcctgtccatcactg	29	9
	27979	Coding	445	ttcaatggcttccacgag	6	10
20	27980	Coding	507	aattctgccaggttgctg	0	11
	27981	Coding	605	gtaagtccaggagatagc	14	12
	27982	Coding	642	atttcactgtaaacggct	19	13
	27983	Coding	773	gcttgaagaaatgtttta	0	14
	27984	Coding	859	ggctgctgagaatctgaa	22	15
25	27985	Coding	926	gttcattccattcagttg	13	16
	27986	Coding	970	agtaggttttggtggttt	0	17
	27987	Coding	996	ttattcataccgttgttg	4	18
	27988	Coding	1022	attcagcattttgtaagg	1	19
	27989	Coding	1230	accacagaactgaaggtt	0	20
30	27990	Coding	1455	atttcctgggatgtgcgg	52	21
	27991	Coding	1534	ccgctcttgggtctggca	71	22
	27992	Coding	1582	tttctcattgccttcacg	0	23
	27993	Coding	1596	atcctttgtatttctttc	15	24
	27994	Coding	1674	ttcaagtcttcttccaat	15	25
35	27995	Coding	1763	attggtctctcgtctttc	0	26

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	27996	Coding	1808	tcaacttcttttgccgaa	38	27
	27997	Coding	1824	ttgcccaaccactcgttc	55	28
	27998	Coding	1840	gtcttcagtgttttcatt	0	29
	27999	Coding	1925	ctttgtttcggttgctgc	36	30
5	28000	Coding	1988	cctgtttactgctctccc	20	31
_	28001	Coding	2015	ccaccactacagagcagg	0	32
	28002	Coding	2029	ctttacttcgccgtccac	41	33
	28003	Coding	2068	aaagccatagccagttgc	0	34
	28004	Coding	2160	acattgagggagtcgttg	0	35
10	28005	3'UTR	2265	gccctttgctttccagag	0	36
	28006	3'UTR	2281	atcagactggagaggagc	27	37
	28007	3'UTR	2426	aaagaaggataagcact	7	38
	28008	3'UTR	2605	ctgcctctctctcctccg	0	39
	28009	3'UTR	2651	ccaggctaaaccaggctg	57	40
15	28010	3'UTR	2679	tgtctgggtccaccgtgc	55	41
	28011	3 'UTR	2741	gacgtgcctttctgctac	28	42
	28012	3'UTR	2768	attctcccaaagcgtccc	19	43
	28013	3'UTR	2817	ttctggcactttctatga	28	44
	28014	3'UTR	2989	ccttcagcaaaacaaaac	24	45
20	28015	3'UTR	3043	aactgaaataacaactta	6	46
_ •	28016	3'UTR	3294	ccaacaaacagtccaaa	6	47

As shown in Table 1, SEQ ID NOs 21, 22, 27, 28, 30, 33, 40 and 41 demonstrated at least 30% inhibition of PI3K p85 expression in this assay and are therefore preferred.

25 Example 16:

Antisense inhibition of PI3K p85 expressionphosphorothioate 2'-MOE gapmer oligonucleotides

In accordance with the present invention, a second series of oligonucleotides targeted to human PI3K p85 were synthesized. The oligonucleotide sequences are shown in Table 2. Target sites are indicated by nucleotide numbers, as given in the sequence source reference (Genbank accession no. M61906), to which the oligonucleotide binds.

All compounds in Table 2 are chimeric oligonucleotides ("gapmers") 18 nucleotides in length, composed of a central "gap" region consisting of ten 2'-deoxynucleotides, which is flanked on both sides (5' and 3' directions) by four-nucleotide "wings". The wings are composed of 2'-methoxyethyl (2'-MOE)nucleotides. The internucleoside (backbone) linkages are phosphorothicate (P=S) throughout the oligonucleotide. Cytidine residues in the 2'-MOE wings are 5-methylcytidines.

Data were obtained by real-time quantitative PCR as described in other examples herein and are averaged from two experiments. If present, "N.D." indicates "no data".

Table 2
Inhibition of PI3K p85 mRNA levels by chimeric
phosphorothicate oligonucleotides having 2'-MOE wings and a
deoxy gap

	ISIS#	REGION		SEQUENCE	%	SEQ ID
_			SITE		Inhibition	NO.
	28017	Coding	88	atcttcttctctttcctt	59	8
	28018	Coding	168	gcttcctgtccatcactg	47	9
20	28019	Coding	445	ttcaatggcttccacgag	6	10
	28020	Coding	507	aattctgccaggttgctg	12	11
	28021	Coding	605	gtaagtccaggagatagc	43	12
	28022	Coding	642	atttcactgtaaacggct	69	13
	28023	Coding	773	gcttgaagaaatgtttta	43	14
25	28024	Coding	859	ggctgctgagaatctgaa	59	15
	28025	Coding	926	gttcattccattcagttg	22	16
	28026	Coding	970	agtaggttttggtggttt	54	17
	28027	Coding	996	ttattcataccgttgttg	45	18
30	28028	Coding	1022	attcagcattttgtaagg	0	19
	28029	Coding	1230	accacagaactgaaggtt	57	20
	28030	Coding	1455	atttcctgggatgtgcgg	74	21
	28031	Coding	1534	ccgctcttgggtctggca	15	22
	28032	Coding	1582	tttctcattgccttcacg	35	23

	28033	Coding	1596	atcctttgtatttctttc	46	24
	28034	Coding	1674	ttcaagtcttcttccaat	28	25
	28035	Coding	1763	attggtctctcgtctttc	0	26
	28036	Coding	1808	tcaacttcttttgccgaa	59	27
5	28037	Coding	1824	ttgcccaaccactcgttc	28	28
_	28038	Coding	1840	gtcttcagtgttttcatt	0	29
	28039	Coding	1925	ctttgtttcggttgctgc	46	30
	28040	Coding	1988	cctgtttactgctctccc	0	31
	28041	Coding	2015	ccaccactacagagcagg	38	32
10	28042	Coding	2029	ctttacttcgccgtccac	0	33
	28043	Coding	2068	aaagccatagccagttgc	10	34
	28044	Coding	2160	acattgagggagtcgttg	0	35
	28045	3' UTR	2265	gccctttgctttccagag	0	36
	28046	3' UTR	2281	atcagactggagaggagc	32	37
15	28047	3' UTR	2426	aaagaagggataagcact	18	38
	28048	3' UTR	2605	ctgcctctctctcctccg	0	39
	28049	3' UTR	2651	ccaggctaaaccaggctg	24	40
	28050	3' UTR	2679	tgtctgggtccaccgtgc	57	41
	28051	3' UTR	2741	gacgtgcctttctgctac	53	42
20	28052	3' UTR	2768	attctcccaaagcgtccc	55	43
	28053	3' UTR	2817	ttctggcactttctatga	0	44
	28054	3' UTR	2989	ccttcagcaaaacaaaac	0	45
	28055	3' UTR	3043	aactgaaataacaactta	14	46
	28056	3' UTR	3294	ccaacaaaacagtccaaa	15	47

As shown in Table 2, SEQ ID NOs 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 27, 30, 32, 37, 41, 42 and 43 demonstrated at least 30% inhibition of PI3K p85 expression in this experiment and are therefore preferred.

Example 17

30 Western blot analysis of PI3K p85 protein levels

Western blot analysis (immunoblot analysis) is carried out using standard methods. Cells are harvested 16-20 h after oligonucleotide treatment, washed once with PBS, suspended in Laemmli buffer (100 ul/well), boiled for 5 minutes and loaded on a 16% SDS-PAGE gel. Gels are run for

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1.5 hours at 150 V, and transferred to membrane for western blotting. Appropriate primary antibody directed to PI3K p85 is used, with a radiolabelled or fluorescently labeled secondary antibody directed against the primary antibody 5 species. Bands are visualized using a PHOSPHORIMAGER™ (Molecular Dynamics, Sunnyvale CA).

Example 18

Antisense inhibition of mouse PI3K p85 expressionphosphorothicate 2'-MOE gapmer oligonucleotides

In accordance with the present invention, a series of oligonucleotides targeted to mouse PI3K p85 were synthesized. The oligonucleotide sequences are shown in Table 3. Target sites are indicated by nucleotide numbers, as given in the sequence source reference (Genbank 15 accession no. U50413; SEQ ID NO: 48), to which the oligonucleotide binds.

All compounds in Table 3 are chimeric oligonucleotides ("gapmers") 20 nucleotides in length, composed of a central "gap" region consisting of ten 2'-deoxynucleotides, which 20 is flanked on both sides (5' and 3' directions) by fivenucleotide "wings". The wings are composed of 2'methoxyethyl (2'-MOE) nucleotides. The internucleoside (backbone) linkages are phosphorothioate (P=S) throughout the oligonucleotide. Cytidine residues are 5-25 methylcytidines throughout the oligonucleotides.

Data were obtained by real-time quantitative RT-PCR as described in other examples herein and are averaged from two experiments. For mouse PI3K p85 the PCR primers were: forward primer: GCGTGGCAGTAAAATCAGACG (SEQ ID NO: 49)

reverse primer: CCACGTGTCCTTCTCAGCAA (SEQ ID NO: 50) and the PCR probe was: FAM- TGGGCCTCGCTGCGAGAGTCAG-TAMRA (SEQ ID NO: 51) where FAM (PE-Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA) is the fluorescent reporter dye) and TAMRA (PE-Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA) is the quencher dye. If present, "N.D." indicates "no data".

Table 3

Inhibition of mouse PI3K p85 mRNA levels by chimeric phosphorothicate oligonucleotides having 2'-MOE wings and a deoxy gap

	ISIS#	REGION	TARGET SITE	SEQUENCE	% Inhib.	SEQ ID NO.
	131406	3'UTR	9	cgctgcttcctccaactcgg	56	52
	131407	3'UTR	195	cgctccactctcagcttcac	85	53
	131408	3'UTR	378	ccatctgtcctccatcaacg	88	54
15	131409	3'UTR	563	gcactcatgtctgcagctct	85	55
	131410	Coding	694	cctggccatcactgaatcca	95	56
	131411	Coding	746	ccagtggtttcattgtagcc	90	57
	131412	Coding	889	cttgctgctccgtgtcagct	85	58
	131413	Coding	1081	tctccaagtccactgacgcg	56	59
20	131414	Coding	1130	tcggcgagatagcgtttgaa	73	60
	131415	Coding	1281	atactgaagcgtaagccaac	75	61
	131416	Coding	1473	tgctggtgctggctgtctct	68	62
	131417	Coding	1670	ggtgtaagagtgtaatcgcc	78	63
	131418	Coding	1855	cctgctggtatttggacact	50	64
25	131419	Coding	2062	gctcctgggtttggcattgt	45	65
	131420	Coding	2233	cgatctctcggtactcagct	79	66
	131421	Coding	2439	gctcccgacattccacgtct	65	67
	131422	Coding	2594	ccatagccggtggcagtctt	40	68
	131423	5'UTR	2790	tttgcttctcagaggccttg	40	69
30	131424	5'UTR	3150	ggtctccaaagtcccaactt	N.D.	70
	131425	5 'UTR	3241	gtctgggttcaccacaccca	N.D.	71
	131426	5'UTR	3339	gcatcaatgttctctcaaag	75	72

As shown in Table 3, SEQ ID NOs 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 60 61, 62, 63, 66, 67, and 72 demonstrated at least 60% inhibition of mouse PI3K p85 expression in this experiment and are therefore preferred.

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Example 19

Effects of antisense inhibition of mouse PI3K p85 (ISIS 131410) on mRNA expression in liver and fat

Leptin, the product of the obese gene, is a

circulating hormone secreted primarily from adipocytes and which interacts with receptors in the hypothalamus to inhibit eating. The lack of leptin in ob/ob mice, who are homozygous for the obese gene, results in hyperglycemia, hyperinsulinemia, hyperphagia, obesity, infertility,

decreased brain size and decreased stature. The importance of this single peptide is demonstrated by the profound obesity exhibited by the ob/ob mouse which is unable to produce functional leptin.

Ob/ob mice are used as a model of obesity. The ob/ob

15 phenotype is due to a mutation in the leptin gene on a

C57BL/6J-Lep(ob) background. Heterozygous ob/wt mice (known
as lean littermates) do not display the

hyperglycemia/hyperlipidemia or obesity phenotype and,
along with wild-type mice, are used as controls.

In accordance with the present invention, the effects of ISIS 131410 (SEQ ID NO: 56) on PI3K p85 mRNA expression was investigated in the ob/ob mouse model of obesity.

Male ob/ob mice (age 9 weeks at time 0) were divided into matched groups with the same average blood glucose

levels and treated by intraperitoneal injection once a week with ISIS 141925 (GCCACCGCCTATGTCTTCTC; SEQ ID NO: 73; the control oligonucleotide) or ISIS 131410. Mice were treated at a dose of 25 mg/kg of ISIS 141925 or 25 mg/kg of ISIS 131410.

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Treatment was continued for two weeks after which the mice were sacrificed and tissues collected for mRNA analysis. RNA values were normalized and are expressed as a percentage of saline treated control.

ISIS 131410 successfully reduced PI3K p85 mRNA levels in the liver and fat of ob/ob mice (to 52% and 55% of control, respectively), whereas the control treated animals showed no reduction in PI3K p85 mRNA, remaining at the level of the saline treated control.

Lean littermates (ob/wt) were also examined for mRNA reduction of PI3K p85 in the liver at doses of 25 and 50 mg/kg of ISIS 131410 or saline treatment. In these animals, at both doses, the level of expression was reduced only minimally to 80% of control.

15 Example 20

Effects of antisense inhibition of mouse PI3K p85 (ISIS 131410) on levels of p85 splice variant

ISIS 131410 is one of several antisense oligonucleotides of the present invention that hybridize to the longer p85 α splice variant and not to the p55 α or the p50 α splice variant. Studies were therefore designed to study the effects of this antisense oligonucleotide on expression product of PI3K p85 α splice variant.

Analysis of the expression of the various splice
variants of PI3K p85 by immunoprecipitation with p110 (the catalytic subunit) and Western blot detection using the p85pan antibody (which recognizes all three variants) revealed that, in the livers of both ob/ob and wild-type mice, treatment with ISIS 131410 alters the species of PI3K p85 variant present in favor of the p50α variant.

Example 21

Effects of antisense inhibition of PI3 kinase p85 (ISIS 131410) on blood glucose levels

Male ob/ob and wild-type mice were divided into

matched groups with the same average blood glucose levels
and treated by intraperitoneal injection once a week with
saline, ISIS 131410 or the scrambled control, ISIS 141925.

Ob/ob mice were treated with saline, or doses of 25 or 50 mg/kg of ISIS 313410 (n=4) or ISIS 141925 (n=2) while wild-type mice (n=3) were treated with saline or doses of 25 or 50 mg/kg of ISIS 131410. Treatment was continued for two weeks with blood glucose levels being measured on day 0, 7 and 14.

By day 14 in ob/ob mice, blood glucose levels were

reduced at all doses of ISIS 131410 from a starting level
of 250 mg/dL at day 1 to 180 mg/dL at day 7 and 150 mg/dL
at day 14. These final levels are within the normal range
for wild-type mice (170 mg/dL). The scrambled control and
saline treated levels were 240 mg/dL and 250 mg/dL at day

14, respectively.

In wild-type mice, blood glucose levels remained constant throughout the study for all treatment groups (average 150 mg/dL). These results indicate that treatment with ISIS 131410 reduces blood glucose in ob/ob mice and that there is no hypoglycemia induced in the ob/ob or the wild-type mice as a result of the oligonucleotide treatment.

Example 22

Effects of antisense inhibition of mouse PI3K p85 (ISIS 131410) on serum insulin levels

Male ob/ob mice (age 9 weeks at time 0) were divided into matched groups with the same average blood glucose levels and treated by intraperitoneal injection once a week with saline, ISIS 141925 (the control oligonucleotide) or ISIS 131410 at a dose of 50 mg/kg. Treatment was continued for two weeks with serum insulin levels being measured on day 14.

Mice treated with ISIS 131410 showed a decrease in serum insulin levels (5 ng/mL) compared to saline treated animals (26 ng/mL) and control treated animals (28 ng/mL).

Collectively, these data show that antisense oligonucleotides to PI3K p85 act to reduce serum insulin and blood glucose *in vivo* and suggest that they have potential therapeutic value in the treatment of disorders associated with insulin and glucose regulation.

What is claimed is:

- 1. An antisense compound 8 to 30 nucleobases in length targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding PI3K p85, wherein said antisense compound specifically hybridizes with and inhibits the expression of PI3K p85.
- 2. The antisense compound of claim 1 which is an antisense oligonucleotide.
- 3. The antisense compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide has a sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 21, 22, 27, 28, 30, 33, 40, 41, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 23, 24, 32, 37, 42, 43, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 66, 67 or 72.
- 4. The antisense compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide has a sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 21, 27, 30 or 41.
- 5. The antisense compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified internucleoside linkage.
- 6. The antisense compound of claim 5 wherein the modified internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothicate linkage.
- 7. The antisense compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified sugar moiety.
- 8. The antisense compound of claim 7 wherein the modified sugar moiety is a 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar moiety.
- 9. The antisense compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified nucleobase.

- 10. The antisense compound of claim 9 wherein the modified nucleobase is a 5-methylcytosine.
- 11. The antisense compound of claim 1 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is a chimeric oligonucleotide.
- 12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antisense compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
- 13. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 12 further comprising a colloidal dispersion system.
- 14. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 12 wherein the antisense compound is an antisense oligonucleotide.
- 15. A method of inhibiting the expression of PI3K p85 in human cells or tissues comprising contacting said cells or tissues with the antisense compound of claim 1 so that expression of PI3K p85 is inhibited.
- 16. A method of treating a human having a disease or condition associated with PI3K p85 comprising administering to said human a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of the antisense compound of claim 1 so that expression of PI3K p85 is inhibited.
- 17. The method of claim 16 wherein the disease or condition is a hyperproliferative disorder.
- 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the hyperproliferative disorder is cancer.
- 19. The method of claim 16 wherein the disease or condition is a metabolic disease or condition.
- 20. The method of claim 16 wherein the disease or condition is diabetes.
- 21. The method of claim 16 wherein the disease or condition is Type 2 diabetes.

- 22. The method of claim 16 wherein the disease or condition is obesity.
- 23. The antisense compound of claim 1 which is targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding a truncated form of human PI3K p85.
- 24. A method of decreasing blood glucose levels in an animal comprising administering to said animal the antisense compound of claim 1.
- 25. The method of claim 24 wherein the animal is a human or a rodent.
- 26. The method of claim 24 wherein the blood glucose levels are plasma glucose levels or serum glucose levels.
- 27. The method of claim 24 wherein the animal is a diabetic animal.
- 28. A method of decreasing insulin levels in an animal comprising administering to said animal the antisense compound of claim 1.
- 29. The method of claim 28 wherein the animal is a human or a rodent.
- 30. The method of claim 28 wherein the insulin levels are plasma insulin levels or serum insulin levels.
- 31. The method of claim 28 wherein the animal is a diabetic animal.
- 32. A method of preventing or delaying the onset of a disease or condition associated with PI3K P85 in an animal comprising administering to said animal a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of the antisense compound of claim 1.
- 33. The method of claim 32 wherein the animal is a human.

- 34. The method of claim 32 wherein the disease or condition is a metabolic disease or condition.
- 35. The method of claim 32 wherein the disease or condition is diabetes.
- 36. The method of claim 32 wherein the disease or condition is Type 2 diabetes.
- 37. The method of claim 32 wherein the disease or condition is obesity.
- 38. The method of claim 32 wherein the disease or condition is a hyperproliferative condition.
- 39. The method of claim 38 wherein the hyperproliferative condition is cancer.
- 40. A method of preventing or delaying the onset of an increase in blood glucose levels in an animal comprising administering to said animal the antisense compound of claim 1.
- 41. The method of claim 40 wherein the animal is a human or a rodent.
- 42. The method of claim 40 wherein the blood glucose levels are plasma glucose levels or serum glucose levels.
- 43. The method of claim 40 wherein the animal is a diabetic animal.
- 44. A method of preventing or delaying the onset of an increase in insulin levels in an animal comprising administering to said animal the antisense compound of claim 1.
- 45. The method of claim 44 wherein the animal is a human or a rodent.
- 46. The method of claim 44 wherein the insulin levels are plasma insulin levels or serum insulin levels.

- 47. The method of claim 44 wherein the animal is a diabetic animal.
- 48. The antisense compound of claim 1 which is targeted to PI3K p85a and which preferentially inhibits the expression of PI3K p85a.
- 49. The antisense compound of claim 1 which is targeted to a region of a nucleic acid molecule encoding PI3K p85a which is not found in a nucleic acid molecule encoding PI3K p50a.
- 50. The antisense compound of claim 1 which is targeted to a region of a nucleic acid molecule encoding PI3K p85a which is not found in a nucleic acid molecule encoding PI3K p55a.
- 51. The antisense compound of claim 1 which inhibits the expression of all splice variants encoded by the PI3K p85a gene.
- 52. The antisense compound of claim 1 which alters the ratio of PI3K p85a to PI3K p50a expressed by a cell or tissue.
- 53. The antisense compound of claim 48 which increases the ratio of PI3K p85a to PI3K p50a expressed by a cell or tissue.
- 54. The antisense compound of claim 48 which decreases the ratio of PI3K p85a to PI3K p50a expressed by a cell or tissue.
- 55. The antisense compound of claim 1 which alters the ratio of PI3K p85a to PI3K p55a expressed by a cell or tissue.
- 56. The antisense compound of claim 51 which increases the ratio of PI3K p85a to PI3K p55a expressed by a cell or tissue.

- 57. The antisense compound of claim 51 which decreases the ratio of PI3K p85a to PI3K p55a expressed by a cell or tissue.
- 58. A method of modulating PI3K signal transduction in cells or tissues comprising contacting said cells or tissues with the antisense compound of claim 1 so that PI3K signal transduction is modulated.
- 59. A method of altering the ratio of PI3K p85a to PI3K 50a in human cells or tissues comprising contacting said cells or tissues with the antisense compound of claim 48 so that the ratio of PI3K p85a to PI3K p50a is altered.
- 60. A method of altering the ratio of PI3K p85a to PI3K 55a in human cells or tissues comprising contacting said cells or tissues with the antisense compound of claim 51 so that the ratio of PI3K p85a to PI3K p55a is altered.
- 61. A method of treating a human having a disease or condition associated with PI3K signal transduction comprising administering to said human a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of the antisense compound of claim 1 so that PI3K signal transduction is modulated.
- 62. A method of treating a human having a disease or condition associated with PI3K p85 expression comprising administering to said human a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of the antisense compound of claim 48 so that the ratio of PI3K p85a to PI3K p50a is altered.
- 63. A method of treating a human having a disease or condition associated with PI3K p85 expression comprising administering to said human a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of the antisense compound

of claim 51 so that the ratio of PI3K p85a to PI3K p55a is altered.

ABSTRACT

Antisense compounds, compositions and methods are provided for modulating the expression of PI3K p85. The compositions comprise antisense compounds, particularly antisense oligonucleotides, targeted to nucleic acids encoding PI3K p85. Methods of using these compounds for modulation of PI3K p85 expression and for treatment of diseases associated with expression of PI3K p85 are provided.



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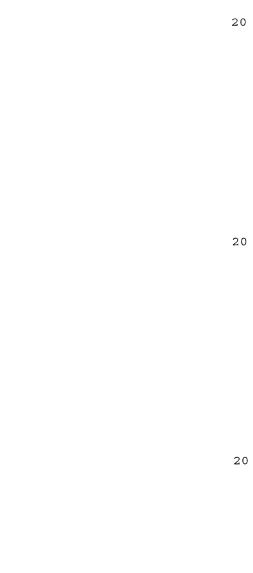
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